



Published by Pro Sanctity East prosantcitynewyork@verizon.net www.nyprosantcity.org
 Fall 2021

Is It Relevant?

Jesus then went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee. He taught them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching because he spoke with authority (Lk 4:31-32).

In some ways Jesus was like any other preacher or rabbi. He read the Scriptures and he taught people. When we read the Gospel, though, we see how Jesus was different as well. People noticed the difference and they responded to it. The difference was that Jesus taught with “authority.” That made him different because people understood that his teaching didn’t come just from mere human insight (like that of the Scribes and Pharisees) but that they



Jesus in the City of Capernaum

were hearing teachings coming from God. He taught with “authority.”

When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes. (Mt 7:28-29).

Jesus taught the people with authority; he taught them a way to live which came from God. He gave the people a new way to understand God’s presence and working in their lives.

That is why the message of Jesus is the “Good News,” the “Gospel.” It is good news because it offers us a new way of thinking, a new way of living and acting, which come from God himself.

This was Good News to the people

of Jesus’ time and it still is for us today as it has been for generation upon generation. In past times, people who did not believe in God were considered fools, lacking wisdom.

“The fool says in his heart,
 “There is no God.”
 They act corruptly and practice injustice; there is none that does good
 (Ps 53:2). “

In more modern times, things have changed. We live in an era when people who believe are considered “backwards.” Some people even think that somehow science and religion are opposed to one another, that if you believe in God you cannot believe in the truth which is only available

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This Just In...

by Lizy Cheriyyatharappel

“Queen of Apostles Bethany” A new Pro Sanctity Center

Apostolic Oblates Indian Nation opened a new Bethany at Ettumanoor in Kerala, India on June 10, 2021. This place is very near to our first Bethany—Pro Sanctity center ‘Spes Nostra’.

The parish priest, Rev. Fr. Tom Kunnumpuram, invited us to start a house in his parish. They provided us with a furnished house to stay. Since Covid 19 affected the life of every person, he asked us to conduct online classes and prayers for the parishioners and to give particular attention to children and youth.

There are 4 Oblates in that Bethany. Two are engaged with professional work and two are fully engaged with parish activities with the help of some lay PS members.

On every Wednesday and Sunday, we invite families for Eucharistic Adoration and we share that everyone has the vocation to a “*The Call to Holiness*”. We transmit this through parish YouTube channel. We are giving formation to girls by giving classes and praying with them. We are teaching catechism and offering counselling for the Parishioners.



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Words from the Founder



Servant of God William Giaquinta

Adapted by Rosemary Darmstadt from “The Maximum Love in the Gospel” by **Guglielmo Giaquinta**

The message of Maximum Love in the Gospel is universal and lasting, characterized by a sacramental life that makes the message understandable to all; A creativity that finds new forms of expression and a multiplicity of experiences. While recognizing the strength and importance of experience it evaluates and gives priority to the formation of motives. Furthermore, spiritual reality must not remain a private fact, but a reality that pervades and animates the whole society.

Maximum love is the substance of the Evangelical message - a message that all people should live for themselves and spread to others. If this message belongs to all, why is it stressed so much in the Pro Sanctity Movement? Because mediocrity is so prevalent in the world that everyone needs to hear it. Even Christians who want to live a holier life may not know how to go about it.

This is where the Pro Sanctity Movement can help them to learn about and live the universal message of Maximum Love in the Gospel because among its objectives are:

(1) Christological - Christ incorporates us in himself through the sacraments and remains in us in the Eucharist (2) Spiritual - to make known that the universal call to Holiness is for all men, women and children and (3) Social Brotherhood - to spread the maximum love so that it does not remain in a closed Circle but spreads to all brothers and sisters near and far.

Pope Francis said...

On 9/9/21, in an audience with members of the Claretian Missionaries, Pope Francis said the Gospel should never be a means to an end but should be used like a handbook to guide our every moment by the options of the Gospel and by the ardent desire to follow Jesus and imitate him in prayer, working and suffering, striving single-mindedly for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

He further told his audience never to separate their mission from contemplation with an ever-growing intimacy with Jesus. You must go out in the world where nobody wants to go, where the light of the Gospel is needed and where you must work side by side with the people. Your mission can never be done remotely by observing out of curiosity from far away, but by committing yourselves to transform the world and by fighting to protect human dignity and respect human rights.

The above is an adaptation of Pope Francis' words to the missionaries, but in the sight of God, aren't we all missionaries? Living by Gospel values also applies to you and me. Rosemary Darmstadt

Continued from page 1

through science. (Far from being opposed to each other, science and religion work hand in hand as each seeks the Truth of which there is only one. If God created the Truth then science and religion are working together to find the same thing!)

The Gospel message of Jesus Christ is relevant today with the same power and purpose as it was two thousand years ago when Jesus proclaimed it first. Why? Well, people have forgotten it and need to hear it again, proclaimed anew. How? Our times present new challenges to us. Are there new ways to proclaim the Good News? One benefit that came from the pandemic we have all endured is that we discovered new ways to preach and to pray together. If people were not coming to the church for some very good reasons, we would go to them: Zoom meetings, prayer services, televised Masses, and all kinds of ways of reaching out to people we never thought of before.

We are now living in a world which presents new challenges to the proclamation of the gospel.

But it is a world which is still in need of hearing that Good News. Perhaps however the best way of spreading the gospel message is by living it out in our lives. When we live the gospel to the full, we proclaim Jesus. We proclaim Jesus because by living the gospel message we show that it is possible. We show that living the truth Jesus proclaimed is the way to happiness, wisdom, and joy, not only in this life but in the next.

Is the gospel message relevant today? In some ways, more than ever! People have forgotten; people have been led astray. Jesus left the proclamation of the Good News to his Church after His ascension into heaven, but He did not leave us alone. The Holy Spirit guides us and fortifies us to proclaim the message of Jesus, the Good News, which the world still needs to hear.

And He made some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to

to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love (Eph 4:11-16).

So, it is by leading a holy life, becoming saints, that we most effectively pass along the message of the Gospel, and use the gifts God gave us to do so!



Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia
Pro Sanctity Spiritual Advisor
Chancellor Diocese of
Brooklyn and Queens
Pastor of St. Pancras Parish

FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Ann Sutherland

Living the Gospel Gives It Relevance

If God is love, if He is the fount of our reality, if He is our Father, we must love Him in return, but we must also love each other as brothers and sisters with a universal brotherly love....

These words were part of a homily preached by the founder of the Pro Sanctity Movement, Servant of God, Bishop Guglielmo Giaquinta, on November 1, 1974. Such powerful words were meaningful forty-seven years ago as they are today.

Likewise, in Pope Francis' encyclical (October 2020) entitled *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Justice*, again focusing on our responsibility to live in unity and love.

Therefore, it is no coincidence that the Pro Sanctity Movement was asked to meditate on the theme: ["All Saints, All Brothers and Sisters"](#) *for this challenging year, using the writings of Bishop Giaquinta and Pope Francis. If there is ever a time when we need to unite and care for each other it's now.

Bishop Giaquinta had the foresight to make this appeal all those years ago. His books, *Brotherhood* and *Love is Revolution*,* among others, are laden with concepts and reasons for practicing this theme. His mission was devoted to uniting us by making us aware that all people are brothers and sisters, and must be revered with love, respect and overall social decorum.

In his encyclical Pope Francis referred, in depth, to the parable of *the Good Samaritan* (Chapter 2: paragraphs 63–83). In this parable, a man was assaulted by thieves and left by the wayside to die. Several religious people passed by, a priest and Levite, but they did not help him: except for one man who did all he could and helped to get him back to health.

One of the many areas Pope Francis wants us to focus on is *time*. The Samaritan gave his time to a stranger even though he must have been taking care of his own business. Whatever we learned from Bishop Giaquinta and Pope Francis lead us to address the theme of this newsletter **"Is the gospel message relevant today?"**

Msgr. Aguggia, writes: *The Gospel message of Jesus Christ is relevant today with the same power and purpose as it was two thousand years ago when Jesus proclaimed it first. The parable of the Good Samaritan that Pope Francis reiterated is relevant today. It reinforces that in order for us to live in unity, we must demonstrate care for our brothers and sisters.*

As we continue on our spiritual journey, the one that Bishop Giaquinta envisioned, let us keep in mind that whenever we reach out to each other, whether it is physically, emotionally or spiritually we are living the Gospel.

* These books are available at Pro Sanctity.

Ask Pro Sanctity... How is the Gospel Relevant Today?

Mona Edwards

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching. It is good to have our hearts strengthened by grace and not by foods, which do not benefit those who live by them” (Heb. 13: 8-9).

We live in a world which has as many challenges as it did in the times when Jesus existed on the earth. Although Jesus was faced with many challenges on earth, he did not take his eyes off his mission which was pre-determined by His Father. No, instead, Jesus lifted his eyes and his heart praying unceasingly to His Father for the conversion of our hearts. Jesus had a strong unbreakable bond with His Father.

We can and we do need to have that bond with Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by making the Gospel relevant in our day to day, and moment to moment, living. For our own sanctification and spiritual growth, we have to allow ourselves to be engulfed by the Word of God through reading, meditating and contemplating of scriptures.

“Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account” (Heb. 4: 12-13).

*“I offer you peace.
I offer you love.
I offer you friendship.
I see your beauty.
I hear your need. I feel your feelings”*

Mahatma Gandhi

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

Personal Challenge...

As always the newsletter follows the theme that the Pro Sanctity Movement suggests each year. This year's theme is “We are all Brothers and Sisters” and in this newsletter we talk about how the Bible is relevant in our lives today so we can live as brothers and sisters. Each of the articles presents a challenge to us and I urge you to recognize the challenge they present and really respond to that challenge. So I just want you to remember that the Bible, the Sacred Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit is a love letter from the Father via the son Jesus, the Christ. Therefore, if He is our Father, we **are** all brothers and sisters who follow the Word and are called Christians.

Steve Soo Hon gave us a wonderful reflection on a talk by Scott Troy about Pro Sanctity. What it is and in my opinion how the Movement helps one to meet the challenge of living the Gospel in today's world.

Many claim to be Christians...but I ask “how can I believe what you are saying as a Christian when I see what you are doing”. As St. Francis said “Preach the Gospel and if necessary use words”. The Bible **IS** very relevant today if we *live it* and treat each other as our brother or sister.

Our Stories



Our Lady of Trust Celebration

Fr. John Costello presided at the Eucharist adoration
 Right: Fr John gives an inspiring reflection on Our Lady of Trust.



Above: Steven Soo Hon-read the Holy Scripture



Below: Oct.2-3 WEEKEND RETREAT IN SPANISH

Above: The Pro Sanctity members of Our Lady of Miracles enjoy time of relaxation at the Jamaica bay.



Left: Fr. Lionel Pacheco gives the meditation on "El gran regalo de Jesus: La Paz"

Center-right: The retreatants' listen attentively to the words of Fr. Lionel.

We had a special guest the service dog of Alexandra: honey, who listened quietly.

Left: the enter group posed joyful at the end of the Sunday Liturgy.



Near left: a stop for rest after a walk on the beautiful grounds.

Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

By Cathy Palermo



CONCHITA

Blessed Concepción Cabrera Arias (Conchita) was born December 8, 1862 in San Luis potosi(Mexico). She was the seventh of twelve children to wealthy landowning parents. Since childhood Conchita was attracted to God, in the Eucharist, and distinguished herself for her purity, humility, and spirit of sacrifice. As a child she began to experience mystical visions such as the Child Jesus coming to play with her in her room. From an early age she was devoted to the Holy Eucharist.

On Nov 8, 1884, she married her childhood sweetheart Francisco Armida Garcia. Together they had nine children. Some are puzzled she chose marriage over being a nun but Conchita never considered becoming a religious. She simply felt she was unworthy of such an amazing way of life. Instead she wished to marry and have many children and even encouraged her spiritual followers throughout their married life to serve God in that way. Her husband accepted .

WORK of THE CROSS

In 1889, Conchita attended her first spiritual exercises. There she discovered her mission, “ to save souls” thanks to the guidance of Fr Alberto Mir. She advanced significantly in her spiritual life and began to write a spiritual diary.

On January 14, 1894, moved by the desire to belong to Jesus Christ entirely, she marked her chest with the monogram “JHS” and a spontaneous cry came from her lips and heart, “Jesus, Savior of all people, save them!” That day is considered the beginning of the works of the Cross. A few days later, she had a vision of the cross of the Apostolate, the symbol of the spirituality of the cross which God gave the world through Conchita. On May 3, 1894, the first cross of the Apostolate was erected in her family’s hacienda. Today, many faithful come on pilgrimage to venerate the cross.

Conchita understood the importance of holy priests as spiritual leaders. Jesus revealed to Conchita: “I want to renew the world by revealing myself through the priests. I want to give my Church a powerful impulse in which I will pour out the Holy Spirit over my priests like a new Pentecost”. With this mindset, Conchita founded a lay apostolate and religious orders including The Apostleship of the Cross in 1895 and The Congregation of Sisters of the Cross of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1897.

After the death of her husband in 1901, Conchita entered into a “ spiritual marriage” with Jesus. Jesus gave her many messages, especially concerning the priesthood.. Evidence of her mysticism can be found in her writings, where she urged people to embrace their cross as a means of salvation.

In March, 1906, God granted Conchita the grace of the mystical incarnation, a grace of transformation into Christ, and great spiritual fruitfulness. On November 8, 1909 the Covenant of Love with the Sacred Heart of Jesus was founded and on January 19, 1912, the Fraternity of Christ the Priest.

In 1913 Conchita made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome where she met with Pope St Pius X. The Holy Father granted permission for the foundation of the missionaries of the Holy Spirit, founded on December 25, 1914

After a life filled with sacrifice and good works for the lord, Conchita died from pneumonia on March 3, 1937 at the age of 74. Some of the great treasures that this laywoman gave to the Church are her numerous mystical and autobiographical texts, her letters to different recipients, and her catechetical and devotional writings. Some of her most popular books are: *Irresistibly Drawn to the Eucharist* ; *What Jesus is like* ; *Seasons of the Soul*; *I Am: Eucharistic Meditations of the Gospels* and *Conchita: Mother’s Spiritual Diary*.

In 1956 her canonization process was initiated. On December 20, 1999, Pope St. John Paul II acknowledged her Christian virtues to be those of a heroic degree and declared her Venerable. In 2006 a miraculous healing of a man named Jorge Guillermo Trevino was attributed to Blessed Conchita. In 2018 Pope Francis approved the miracle of the healing and Conchita was beatified in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City on May 2019.

Although by papal privilege Blessed Conchita died a consecrated religious, she was a wife and mother of a large family whom God favored with many supernatural graces. She is also a great model for all Christians in whatever state of life.

“Love is the soul of every life of prayer and of every good work” ...

Blessed Conchita

Pro Sanctity National Convention

St. Kevin, Flushing & Our Lady of Miracles, New York
On Zoom from the Center of Omaha, Ne.
July 24, 2021

By Steven Soo Hon

Is it possible to be a part of something and not really know what it is all about? Many of us have been part of this wonderful movement but given the chance to explain what it is, we stumble. Fr. Traynor's talk on "What is the Pro Sanctity Movement?" helps us.

It is a movement, not a club. Pro Sanctity is for and ordered toward the holiness of life. Bishop Giaquinta's passion was to make known to all people the Universal call to holiness, that every person made in the image and likeness of God is made for holiness. Pro Sanctity, as a movement, has an aim, a mission that drives people to action. A movement's decisions are ordered to advance the mission, with a leadership that is distributed and agile, not defined and structured as one would find in a club.

Bishop Giaquinta during a retreat spoke of Jesus' thirst, a thirst for love. It is a thirst expressed to the sinful woman he met while sitting at Jacob's well in Samaria. Both at the well and on the cross, Jesus expresses his thirst for souls, His thirst for love.

Our answer of total love for Jesus is nothing less than holiness.

There are three essential elements to holiness –

- a. maximum love
- b. universal holiness
- c. universal brotherhood

There are three dimensions that correspond to these three elements

- a. personal holiness, the individual's response to God
- b. communal love – including our fellow brothers and sisters in responding
- b. societal – capable of being a transforming force in the world. Christ tells us that we are to become leaven for the world, to be light, to be salt.

Holiness is a maximum response to God's infinite love. Jesus tells us in scripture – "as the Father has loved me, so I love you, live in my love." John 15,9. We see that Jesus loves us with the same infinite love of the Father. Jesus also says that "no greater love is there than to lay down one's life for one's friends. I no longer call you servants, I call you friends. John 15, 13-15. On the cross, Jesus poured himself out in totality. Jesus holds nothing back in revealing the Father. He tells *Philip*, if you have seen me, you have seen the Father. John 14, 9

Jesus waits for us to welcome Him into each and every moment of our lives. He calls us to a total yes to holiness, to share our whole life with Him. He loves with a generous, astonishing, overwhelming and maximum love. Such a love calls forth from each of us the only right response, which is a response of our unconditional love. He knows my capacity.

Pro Sanctity seeks to form heart, mind and action.

Forming heart through adoration, service to one another, times of prayer, proclamation of the gospel.

Forming mind through getting to know the good news of Christ, the gospel. Such knowledge reforms and transforms our hearts.

Forming actions by becoming apostles, to give as gift what we receive as gift, to lead others to Him through our word and action.

How is Pro Sanctity supposed to spread this universal call to holiness concretely?

Bishop Giaquinta calls it the Christological way.

It is spread through :

- a. celebration of Founder's Day, Day of Universal Sanctification, Feast of Our Lady of Trust. Through these celebrations, all are invited to experience a taste of the Movement.
- b. When there is an awakening to a desire for a deeper relationship with Christ, there is a place to go – Pro Sanctity
- c. Introduction to the response to God's infinite love
- d. Desire for formation into fruitful membership of the program, how to evangelize holiness.
- e. This movement is full of dynamism, God's graces and an amazement at what God does. Every heart is made to receive His love and to respond to it.



Above: Ann Sutherland, The Coordinator, welcomes and explains the unfolding of the day at the Convention to the attendees.



Right: Mona smiles with the two technicians Alex and Anthony

Above & Right John Rossi welcomes the attendees of St. Kevin Parish



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The Pro Sanctity Movement is a Catholic Organization dedicated to promoting the Universal Call to Holiness by seeking to address the needs of the mind with theology, the heart with spirituality, and the hands with ministry.

The Pro Sanctity Movement

Cordially invites YOU to join us to celebrate the

Day of Universal Sanctification

Saturday, November 13, 2021

Legacy of the Servant of God Bishop Guglielmo Giaquinta

"All Brothers and Sisters"

Mass 11:00 AM

**St. Kevin Church
195th Street & 45th Avenue
Flushing, NY 11358**

**Celebrant: Rev. Robert Mema
Pastor of St. Kevin Parish**

For info please call 718-649-0324