Pro Sanctity Movement New York

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Fall 2016

The World is Thirsty...

...for a river of grace

"Jesus, Divine Master, who came down from heaven to give us the abundance of grace, increase it within us and make it become a river that overflows into eternal life."

(From the Pro Sanctity Prayer by Bishop Giaquinta)

Recently, we have seen many images of flooding in our country. Rivers have overflowed their banks and the waters have swept over people's property and homes and disrupted and, in many cases, destroyed their lives. Water is a powerful force. It destroys, but it also gives life. Even those people whose lives were upended by the destruction water brought will acknowledge that water is necessary for living as well.

In my parish's academy and religious education program, the children are involved in projects to raise money for the building of wells in poor communities in Ghana where the people previously had to walk miles to collect water in order to go about their daily lives. How precious clean water is to these people who understand well its life-giving properties.

The water of baptism destroys and gives life, too. It destroys the old life of sin and existence without God and gives new divine life and relationship with the Fa-

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

This Just In……..p 2
Words from Founder……..p 2
Mercy Year……..p 2
Bible Trivia……p 3
Ask Pro Sanctity……..p 4
Personal Challenge……p 4
Come Grow with Us……p 5
Saints - Our Models……p 6
Our Stories……p 7
Save the Date……p 8

This Just In…

Rosemary Darmstadt

Good News from Rome

All of Pro Sanctity is excited about the letter we received from the Pro Sanctity International Director, Vincenzo Florindi, telling us that the body of our Founder, Servant of God William Giaquinta, will be transferred for burial at the parish of Santa Maria dei Monti, the first church in which the young Father William exercised his priestly ministry and received from the Lord the charism of the "Universal Call to Holiness" he shared with us.

In a later communication we were informed that the burial of Servant of God William Giaquinta, Founder of the Pro Sanctity Family, will take place in this Holy Year of Mercy on the Vigil of the Solemnity of All Saints, October 31, 2016 – which will be the 48th Anniversary of his Ordination as Bishop of Tivoli.

The inspiring event of his internment at Santa Maria dei Monti will be observed by a sacred oratorio performed by the Pro Sanctity Choir of Pescara, celebration of the Eucharist by Archbishop Salvatore di Cristina, blessing of the remains, and a prayer vigil for Universal Sanctification.

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia
Angela Di Paola, A.O.
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mona Edwards
Mariakutty Joseph, A.O.
Nina L. Riti
Ann Sutherland

Words from the Founder

Servant of God William Giaquinta

"The awesome power of God's merciful love was manifested through the redemptive act involving the *permission* and the *remission* of sin. That is, had humanity not sinned, it would have not known the marvels of the Father's merciful love; it would have not experienced the tenderness of a Father who stoops down with deep love and tenderness on his needy creatures."

_____

The Founder's quote reminds me of the Easter Proclamation (EXSULTET) sung at the Easter Vigil Mass: "....Christians everywhere washed clean of sin...are restored to grace and grow together in holiness...O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam which gained for us so great a Redeemer!" Bishop Giaquinta's words tell us so clearly that, though we are sinners, we have been redeemed through the action of the Father's merciful love.

Rosemary Darmstadt

Year of Mercy...Pope Francis

Nina L. Riti

Dec 8, 2015 to Nov 20, 2016

Most of us are aware that this year has been declared an Extraordinary Jubilee for a Year of Mercy. It started on Dec 8, 2015 -The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother and will end on Nov 20, 2016 - the Solemnity of the Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and the living face of the Father's Mercy. On Sept 21, 2016 our Holy Father spoke again to the people gathered at St. Peter's to continue sharing profound insights into what mercy is. He quoted scripture, "Be merciful even as your Father is merciful" and "You therefore must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Luke 6:36, Matthew 5:48, respectively). The Pope goes on to say "Are Jesus' words realistic? Is it really possible to love like God loves and to be merciful like HE is?" Then he said something that really made me think... "What does it mean for disciples to be merciful?" Jesus explains this with two verbs: "forgive" and "give" (Luke 6:37-38). Pope Francis calls these two pillars - first, "forgiving" someone who has hurt you and may still be hurting you is truly an act of MERCY exemplifying God's mercy toward us.

No one can say they have not done something that our loving heavenly Father has not forgiven them for…so how can we not in turn forgive? I remember sharing something in a previous newsletter…Not forgiving someone is like eating poison and expecting the other person to die. We only kill ourselves by holding on to that anger and not forgiving. The second pillar of the mercy journey Pope Francis said was "giving."

Continued on page 3

Continued from p 1

ther, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It offers an abundance of new life.

Some accept this gift; some reject or ignore it. When we accept it, it has the potential to become that river of grace which Jesus, the Divine Master, came to offer us. This river is the life-giving water that overflows, not to destroy, but to carry us to eternal life, the gift that God offers those who accept his invitation to grow in holiness and in his love.

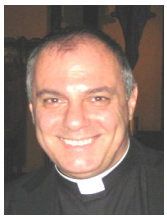
What is grace? The catechism defines it. "Grace is…the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life" (#1996).

The free gift of God given for the first time at baptism, through those saving waters, is offered for our acceptance and allows us to grow in holiness as God's own children so we can become like him and live forever in his presence in heaven.

So, we are challenged. Let us not forget the grace given to us at baptism and throughout our lives. Let us not forget to grow with it, to use it, to cooperate with it so that we will never cease growing in the holiness to which God calls us.

What do we do to cooperate with the grace of God in our lives? What do we do to obtain that free gift of God?

May it indeed become a river in us that carries us to God!



Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia
Pro Sanctity Spiritual Advisor and Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens

Bible Trivia* (Answers are on page 7)

1 Blessed are the __for they shall obtain __.
2 The psalmist said the Lord is good and __to forgive.
3 James 1:17 says every good gift comes from where?
4 According to Paul, what is the supreme gift of the Spirit to believers?
5 Which of the 10 Commandments contains the word "holy?"
6 John said, if we walk in the light as Jesus is in the light, we have __ one with another.
7 What Book of the Bible deals exclusively with God's love for us?
8 In Jesus parable of 2 men in prayer, who prayed God be merciful to me a sinner?
9 The Lord __ the righteous.
10 The Golden Rule is in the Sermon on the Mount. True or False?

"From *Barbour's Bible Trivia Encyclopedia,* published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission."

Continued from page 2

He quoted scripture, "Give and it will be given to you…for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." He sums this up by saying "the extent to which you receive from God, you give to your brother and the extent to which you give to your brother you will receive from God!" I think if we really look…we are very blest. Everything we have IS from God…we are just being good stewards when we share. He concludes by saying "Merciful love is therefore the only way forward. We all have a great need to be a bit more merciful, to not speak ill of others, to not judge, to not sting others with criticism, with envy and jealousy. We must forgive, be merciful and live our lives with love. So end this Year of Mercy by putting these ideas to practice. **God Bless All."**

Ask Pro Sanctity… What is Grace? Mona Edwards

"Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us." (CCC #2003). Through Jesus Christ's redemptive love we can receive divine grace through our willingness to accept God as our Lord and Savior, achieved by the sacrament of baptism. There are two kinds of divine grace: Sanctifying grace and Actual grace. These graces are gifts that are given to us from God.

Sanctifying grace is a gift that is within us guided through the Holy Spirit. According to Mary Ann Budnik (*You Can Become A Saint)*, "It is a permanent gift that can only be lost through mortal sin. Yet, in God's great love and mercy for us it can be regained through the sacrament of reconciliation."

This grace is a gift given through God's adoption of us as His sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. As St. John explains, "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure." (1Jn 3**:**1-3)

Actual graces are gifts that we receive through transient help. According to Mary Ann Budnik, "Actual grace is a spurt of spiritual energy with which God helps us in a particular circumstance...at a particular moment (such as at the moment of temptation); in a tricky situation where prudence and wisdom are required; or as an impulse to perform some good action."

Sometimes in our worldly existence, we are misguided in our belief that *we are in control* of our every decision. This is due to our ineptness at knowing who God is and who we are in relation to God.

Grace is a gift that unites every being to God.

The Personal Challenge Nina L. Riti

Once again Msgr. Aguggia, in the lead article of this newsletter, gives us much food for thought about the abundance of grace that God in his mercy and love gives us. Many of us are familiar with Bishop Giaquinta's prayer for the movement that Msgr. quotes in the beginning of the article in which we pray that this "grace will overflow into eternal life." In *Ask Pro Sanctity* we are reminded of the two kinds of grace that God gives us to help us on our journey. In both articles, the gift of grace is explored and the benefits of this gift of grace freely given to us are expounded. Both articles are filled with hope. So what is the challenge for us...TRUST...trust that it will be enough to get us through our difficulties and our overwhelming problems.

In 2 Corinthians12:9 we read "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." But do we believe it? Do we not walk around worrying about it, scared it won't be enough, it won't come in time, I CAN'T do that, all the negative thoughts that the evil one sends us, so we doubt. The Gospel on Oct 2nd talked about the fact that if we just had the faith of a mustard seed we could move mountains...We think we have faith, sure, we even say we have faith, but I doubt anyone of us believes we can move a mountain! We must trust and believe that God will send us the grace we need to do what we have to do. His grace IS sufficient. I was planning to give a Confirmation Retreat this past Saturday, when late Friday night, the Sister in charge of the program called to tell me that the tape I was planning to use was broken. Sister said, "Don't worry, we will figure it out tomorrow. Have a pleasant evening." Yeah, Right. I immediately went into panic mode. What was I going to do, what back-up plan could I come up with, etc., etc. Saturday morning comes, the confirmation students are all coming in, Sister tells the secretary of the parish that the tape for the movie we need is broken. What made Sister tell the secretary about the problem? Even more, why did the secretary have a copy of the movie in the office??? The retreat went beautifully, and God showed me again that HIS grace is sufficient...HE provides us with what we need. How can we not pick up the challenge that Pope Francis offers us? Forgive and Give...putting that into practice in our daily life is truly beginning to satisfy that thirst that is within us all and will never stop until we rest in HIM, or as David says in Psalm 63:2, My soul thirsts for you, my flesh yearns for You in a dry and weary land where there is no water, and the answer comes in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied." Finally, St. Faustina challenges us to imitate her humble way, putting her trust in Him and following His desire to spread this devotion worldwide.

Mark your Calendar for 2016!
...Come and grow with us

Festival of Faith

Children 3-9 years old
Our Lady of Angels Parish
4th Avenue, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn NY 11209
***Saturday,** Oct. 15, Nov. 19, 2016*
4:00-6:00 p.m.

Pro Santidad in Our Lady Angels

Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY. 11209
Tuesdays, Oct. 11 & 25– Nov. 8 & 22– Dec. 13
For information call 718-848-3206

Pro Santidad in Woodside

Mr. Fabio Parra
5301 32nd Avenue, Woodside NY 11377
***Wednesdays,** Oct. 19-Nov.16-Dec. 21*
Please call 718-848-3206

Bible Sharing

Our Lady of Miracles
Fr. Simonetti Parish Center,
East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236
"The Eucharist " & "The Explosive Gospel"
***Every Thursday** ... 7:30 p.m.*

St. Fidelis Parish

124-06 14th Ave,
College Point, NY 11356
"The Joy of the Gospel" Spanish
Sundays, Oct. 2, 9 ,23 –Nov 6 and 20
***11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Madonna Rm*

Pro Sanctity Center—St. Kevin

45-30 195th Street, Flushing, NY 11358

Small Group "Arise"
Oct.4, Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 7, Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesdays, from November 15
"The Joy of Living the Gospel"
7:00-9:00 pm

Advent Day of Prayer

Saturday, December 10, 2016
9:00 a.m. Mass
Program 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Rev. Joseph Fonti
Breakfast and Lunch included

Retiro Pro Santidad (Spanish)

For MEN October 16, 2016
"Qué Piensa Dios de Mi?"

45-30 195th Street, Flushing, NY
Presentador: Rev. Gabriel J. Toro
Vicario Parroquial Sn. Atanasio

There will be Eucharistic Adoration every **Monday** from **9:30 AM to 5 PM** in the chapel of the Pro Sanctity Center at 45-30 195th St., Flushing, NY 11358

Come to the Bethany and spend some quiet time in conversation with the Lord.

Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

Compiled by Ann Sutherland

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

God's Humble Instrument

Maria Faustina Kowalska, today known as Saint Faustina, was a very young girl, when Jesus Christ revealed himself to her. In these revelations she received messages from him. These were regarded as God's message of Divine Mercy, and were compiled into notebooks called *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.*

Saint Faustina's background was one of very humble means. She was born to a poor religious Polish family on August 25, 1905. The third of ten children, Faustina received only three years of elementary education. At the tender age of seven, Faustina first felt a calling to the religious life. After finishing her schooling, Faustina immediately wanted to join a convent, but her parents refused to let her.

Her First Vision of Jesus

In 1924, Faustina experienced her first vision of Jesus. Jesus instructed her to leave for Warsaw immediately and join a convent. She packed her bags and left the next day.

Faustina was allowed to enter a convent by the mother superior for the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, but she was required to pay for her own religious habit. A determined Faustina worked as a housekeeper, and saved her money to pay for her habit.

Faustina Becomes a Nun

After receiving her habit and taking her religious name as Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament, she took her first religious vows as a nun in 1928. Sr. Faustina travelled throughout convents as a cook, but in 1930, she became ill and was sent away to rest until she recovered.

On February 22, 1931, Faustina was again visited by Jesus. He presented himself as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays coming from his heart. Jesus asked her to become an apostle and secretary of God's mercy. According to Faustina "…Jesus said to me, 'paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.'" The first painting of the image was created by Eugene Kazimierowski in 1934.

According to Faustina, Jesus also explained that he wanted the Divine Mercy image to be "solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy." On May 1, 1933 she took her final vows and became a perpetual sister of Our Lady of Mercy. The entry on Good Friday, April 19, 1935, of Faustina's diary revealed that Jesus told her he wanted the Divine Mercy image publicly honored, and on April 26, 1935 Father Sopocko, the appointed confessor to the nuns, delivered the very first sermon on the Divine Mercy.

In the ensuing years, Faustina continued to have encounters with Jesus. These encounters intensified during her failing health. Faustina wrote about her vision of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, used to obtain mercy, trust in Christ's mercy and to show mercy to others.

On October 5, 1938, Sr. Faustina passed away. Her entire life was lived in imitation of Christ - a life lived for others. She offered her personal sufferings in union with Him to atone for the sins of others. Her daily life was to become a doer of mercy, bringing joy and peace to others, and encouraged others to trust in Him and thus prepare the world for His coming again.

Sr. Faustina was buried on October 7 and currently rests at the Basilica of Divine Mercy in Krakow, Poland. The message of mercy that Sister Faustina received is now being spread throughout the world; her diary, has become the handbook for devotion to the Divine Mercy.

Faustina is Canonized

In 1965, Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II, started to investigate her life. He submitted a number of documents on her life to the Vatican and requested the official beatification process to start. St. Faustina Kowalska was beatified on April 18, 1993 and canonized on April 30, 2000, both by Pope St. John Paul II. Her feast day is celebrated on October 5 and she is the patron saint of Mercy.

Our Stories continue
with the children

Left:
Festival of Faith for children is now here in St. Kevin Parish, too! Bishop Raymond Chappetto and José Diaz, seminarian, are praying with the children and the volunteers.

Right: *The children learn teamwork as they focus on the art project of the day.*

Below: *It is time to jump and stretch so José prepared a game for the children which makes them very happy.*

Right: *Festivals at Our Lady of Angels and Our Lady of Miracles during Play time, when the children enjoy the good weather at out-door games.*

Apostolic Oblates
Pro Sanctity
45-30 195th St.
Flushing, NY 11358

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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.

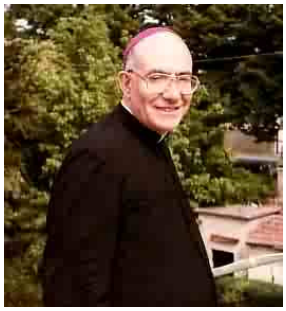
The Pro Sanctity Movement

cordially invites YOU to join us to celebrate the

Day of Universal Sanctification

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Mass 11:00 AM



Founder of the Pro Sanctity Movement, Servant of God Bishop Giaquinta

St. Margaret Church
66-05 79th Pl. Middle Village, NY 11379

Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Aguggia

Pastor of St. Margaret Parish, Pro Sanctity Spiritual Advisor, Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens

Music by: Don Competello and Choir

For information and questions please call 718-649-0324

Light lunch will be served in the Parish Hall