



Pro Sanctity Movement New York

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Holiness!.....Me?

We are all called to become holy, to become saints. That certainly should not be something new to us as members of the Pro Sanctity Movement. It is the whole reason the Movement exists, to assist us in fulfilling that vocation we all share to become saints.

Pope Francis has given us a gift in his newest Apostolic Exhortation, called "*Gaudete et Exsultate*" or "*Rejoice and Be Glad.*" In this document, the Holy Father calls upon all people to reflect on the call to holiness that each of us has received. It is a call, he says, that God



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makes "to be holy, for I am holy." He reminds us that the call is for us all, no matter what state in life we may be in: "We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a liv-

ing? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain."

Even we who are members of Pro Sanctity can sometimes be misled into thinking that holiness is just for those who are called to special vocations: priesthood, consecrated life. It's sometimes easy for

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This Just In...

Pope Francis has written his third Apostolic Exhortation, this time, focusing on the Call to Holiness in Today's World. *Gaudete Et Exsultate* or *Rejoice and Be Glad*, is what Jesus tells those persecuted or humiliated for his sake. The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. The call to holiness is present in various ways from the very first pages of the Bible. We see it expressed in the Lord's words to Abraham: "Walk before me and be blameless." (Genesis 17:1)

We urge you to read the entire Apostolic Exhortation on Holiness, ponder its profound message and try to incorporate it into your life as you respond to your Call to Holiness.

The exhortation "Gaudete Et Exsultate" "Rejoice and be Glad" may be found at

<http://www.vatican.va>

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

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The Thoughts of Bishop Giaquinta and Pope Francis Mirror Each Other

In a reflection written by Marialuisa Pugliese, Procurator for the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God Bishop William Giaquinta, she includes the following striking comparison between the views of our Founder and those of Pope Francis.

"Father Giaquinta made the vocation to holiness the privileged object of his theological study and of his priestly ministry. He entrusted it to his Foundation as the essential goal of life, of evangelical witness, and of apostolic action. To the end of his life he passionately explained it as a way of love traced by God for each of His children, as a 'realizable utopia' in a society based on universal fraternity, as the true secret of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue. Although remaining a rather solitary voice in the ecclesial context, his genuine, prophetic charism was recognized by many, and his spiritual family continued to grow."



She continues, "Now comes the Exhortation of Pope Francis 'on the call to holiness in today's world,' in a sense re-awakening the conscience of all humanity, reviving almost with a single word the message contained in the Gospel, telling us to openly go out to share a gift of salvation that belongs to everyone. With joy I receive this confirmation of 'what has been' during my long Pro Sanctity experience, yet today I feel even more strongly to join with my sisters and brothers [in the family of maximalism] in gazing towards new horizons....Particularly touching for me was the reference to Je-



sus' Beatitudes, which Father Giaquinta had also indicated was the 'manifesto of holiness.' This time, as though for the first time, I detected a note of freshness, a key to a new understanding. In identifying 'happiness' and 'beatitude' with holiness, the Pope reveals the real meaning of the Beatitudes to us, so as to better understand them and put them into practice.

Being poor in heart is holiness
Reacting with meekness and humility is holiness
Mourning with others is holiness
Hungering and thirsting for righteousness is holiness
Being merciful and acting with mercy is holiness
Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love is holiness
Sowing peace all around is holiness
Accepting daily the path of the Gospel—even though it may cause us problems—is holiness.

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us to fall back on old and erroneous ways of thinking that just those who spend all their time at it can achieve sanctity. Both Bishop Giaquinta and Pope Francis remind us that it is for everyone.

Look at those who lived lives of holiness and who were not priests, religious or consecrated persons. We can think of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young layman, who spent his short life working for the poor and feeding his soul with the love of the Blessed Sacrament. We can think of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, a physician and a mother, who refused to abort her baby to save her own life, but gave her life for another. We can look at Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents

of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, who raised a holy family and helped their daughters see the workings of God in family life. We can look at Saints Jacinta and Francisco, the young children who saw the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima and who show us that holiness is for all people young and old.

The Holy Father presents the Beatitudes as a way of holiness. He shows us that each beatitude presents a way of being, a way of living our lives, that lead to God. We progress on the way of holiness using this roadmap given by Jesus Himself.

As we strive day by day for the perfection, the holiness of the Father,

our prayer is that we always give the greatest effort, with the help of God, to achieve the goal of becoming saints. As Bishop Giaquinta said: *“In living out the call to holiness – whatever the demands and details required by one’s own life – everyone is loved infinitely by God and called by Him to respond with their maximum of love – holiness.”*



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

Pope’s May Prayer Intention Focuses On the Role of the Laity

“That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today”

Fr. Jacob Boddicker, S.J. asks in Zenit:

“How am I living out my baptismal call to serve Jesus in the world?”

“Is this enough, or is Jesus calling me to more?”

“How do I desire to serve Him?”

Comedy Corner



A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Peter says to the man, “Here’s how it works. You need to tell me about all the good things you’ve done. Each one is worth a certain number of points. If your total is 100 or more, you can come in.” “Well, I was happily married and never looked at another woman.” “That’s great” says St. Peter, “that’s worth two points.” “Hmmm,” says the man. “This is going to be harder than I thought. “Let me see, I attended church regularly, tithed faithfully, and volunteered for charitable works often.” “Wonderful,” says St. Peter. “That’s worth two points.” “Only two points,” says the man sadly, “At this rate, it’ll only be by the grace of God that I’ll ever get into heaven.” “Bingo!” says St Peter. “That’s one hundred points. Come on in.”

How To Get Into Heaven

the Pearly Gates. Peter says to the man, “Here’s how it works. You need to tell me about all the good things you’ve done. Each one is worth a certain number of points. If your total is 100 or more, you can come in.” “Well, I was happily married and never looked at another woman.” “That’s great” says St. Peter, “that’s worth two points.” “Hmmm,” says the man. “This is going to be harder than I thought. “Let me see, I attended church regularly, tithed faithfully, and volunteered for charitable works often.” “Wonderful,” says St. Peter. “That’s worth two points.” “Only two points,” says the man sadly, “At this rate, it’ll only be by the grace of God that I’ll ever get into heaven.” “Bingo!” says St Peter. “That’s one hundred points. Come on in.”

How can living a holy life be promoted to Young Adults?

First, we have to understand that to be holy means to be set apart and separated from sin or worldliness. God is holy, completely separate from everything that represents sin. "Be holy because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16).

In today's technological world, living a holy life can be seen as a daunting or impossible task for adults, and perhaps even more so, for the young adults. But that's why it is imperative for us (young and old), to depend on each other now, more than ever before, to be on the road of holiness.

Some ways to promote or share the faith journey with young adults: (1) become a mentor—sharing your spiritual journey with a young person, teaching that young person what it entails or requires of them to be Christ-like. "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1) Place that young person under your wing, metaphorically speaking, just as Jesus did with the Apostles. (2) Include young adults in the planning of the church monthly events and invite them to attend. (3) Form young adult groups in the church communities. (4) Meet and evangelize with young adults at activities they attend. (5) Discuss with young adults how they can use technology and social media to promote holiness.

"Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord." (Hebr12:14)

The Personal Challenge**Nina L. Riti**

I remember the first time I was asked to talk about Pro Sanctity and why I became a member... I told the group that it was my mother who introduced me to "Sister" Giovanna, truly a sweet, dear person greeting you always with a smile and truly living her call to holiness...later I found out that we don't call the Apostolic Oblates "Sister..." they are lay people like you and me. But wait a minute, I thought their charism is that we are "all called to Holiness" and I thought, yeah right, that's for them, the Apostolic Oblates, the sisters that belong to a convent, the priests, but me and you...we are ordinary people, leading normal lives... not us! It was not long before I realized the Call to Holiness is not just for them, people we perceive as living a life that is "holy"...but for you and me, living our life, living our everyday life in the very best way we can. I remember saying to the group...YOU become holy by being the best mother, grandmother, daughter, friend you can be to the person in front of you that gives you that title. The best mom you can be to your daughter or son by teaching them to be honest, loving, kind and to live Christ-like lives. Being the best wife or husband to the person you married and vowed to love 'til death do us part.' In today's world it can be changed to love 'as long as you make me happy.'

When I was waiting in my doctor's office I started to talk to the receptionist and commented on how long her hair was getting. She smiled and said "yes I know...but my husband likes it this way." I thought about some women of today and knew their response would be so different...more like "It is my hair and I will do what I want with it". The receptionist added that she tried to do things that would please her husband but drew the line on issues that would be in conflict with her own dignity. Here this lovely lady was responding to her call to holiness by choosing to do something that would please her husband rather than herself. She answered the call to holiness with just a little self-sacrifice.

I was talking to a grandmother who told me she had asked her grandchild to give her a big present when she visited him...she wanted him to be able to say the Our Father by heart. The grandmother knew her busy daughter was taking care of the child's physical needs, but his spiritual needs were put on the back burner. It is so sad to see children in the Confirmation class who do not know the Our Father and Hail Mary. One way parents respond to their call to holiness is by teaching their children through their own example of living the Christian life. In **Ask Pro Sanctity** we are given suggestions on how we can help the young people grow in their journey to holiness and Msgr. Aguggia has captured the essence of Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation on Holiness while **Saints As Models** tells us of Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad, who born in a different faith in Sweden, listened to her call to holiness and became a Catholic nun and helped spread the Good news in Sweden and in other parts of the world. The challenge of this newsletter is clear...How are YOU responding to your "Call to Holiness"? Are you doing the minimum, or as Bishop Giaquinta has asked us, responding to our call to holiness by doing "The maximum" so we can help all our brothers and sisters become HOLY.

Our Stories



Above: The congregation listens to Msgr. Aguggia's inspiring presentation on Our Lady of Trust. Right: Ed Contreras & choir added to the event. Fellowship concluded the day.



Above: Spanish Retreat on the Eucharist was beautifully presented by Msgr. Edward V. Wetterer. Right Center: Stations of the Cross in St. Kevin church was led by Deacon Fabio Parra. Right: closing ceremony for the retreat weekend.





St. Maria Elizabeth

Hesselblad

Her Early Years

Today she is known as St. Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad, a devout servant of God. However, when she was born on June 4, 1870 into a family of thirteen children, Elizabeth Hesselblad was not even a member of the Catholic Church. She was born in Faglavik, Alvsborg, a province of Sweden and raised in the Reform Church. Due to bankruptcy, her family became financially insecure, and by the tender age of sixteen, she recognized that she had to help. She sought different menial jobs in her homeland, but two years later, at the age of eighteen in 1888, she migrated to New York.

Conversion and Religious Life

Her journey into Catholicism began while working as a nursing student in Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan. It was in this capacity that she became associated with members of the Catholic Church. As she learned more and more about the Church, she immersed herself in its teachings. Elizabeth was ultimately baptized

in Washington, D.C., by her spiritual adviser, Jesuit priest, Giovanni Hagen.

After her baptism on August 15 1902, Elizabeth travelled to Rome where she received the Sacrament of Confirmation. She made a brief trip back to New York, and then returned to Rome where she embarked on life in the religious order, the Carmelite House of Saint Bridget of Sweden. This order was an offspring of the Order of the Most Holy Savior, which was established by St. Bridget of Sweden and which became extinct in Sweden with the emergence of the Reform Church. In 1906 Elizabeth was permitted by Pope Pius X to take the habit of the order.

With her conversion to Catholicism came her desire to restore Sweden to its Catholic heritage and revive the religious order. Her main endeavor was to return the Briggittine Sisters, named after their founder Saint Bridget, back to Sweden and settle in the original birthplace. However, her efforts were met with criticism and sometimes controversy. Her greatest desire was to spread the true spirit of Christian unity and service to others, just like her predecessor of the ancient Order, Saint Bridget.

Elizabeth was relentless in her efforts to reestablish the order and after many years of petitioning the Vatican, she was eventually given permission to take charge of the *Briggittine*

house and church in Rome in 1931. She then went on to establish *Briggittine* foundations in India in 1937. She reached out to help save Jews and others persecuted by the Nazis by giving them refuge in Rome. Finally, after thirty years of continuous work, her order was canonically approved and on July 7, 1940, recognized by the Church.

Veneration and Canonization

Elizabeth Hasselblad died on April 24, 1957 in Rome, Italy of natural causes. She was Venerated on March 26, 1999 by Pope John Paul II and Beatified April 9, 2000, also by Pope John Paul II. She was canonized by Pope Francis on June 5, 2016. Today, her order consists of fifty houses spread over three continents. St. Elizabeth Mary Hasselblad's persistence paid off. The order that she revived and rededicated continues the work in her honor.

A quote from St. Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad

“We must nourish a great love for God and our neighbors; a strong love, an ardent love, a love that burns away imperfections, a love that gently bears an act of impatience, or a bitter word, a love that lets an inadvertence or act of neglect pass without comment, a love that lends itself readily to an act of charity.”

Mark your Calendar for 2018!

...Come and grow with us

Bible Sharing

*Our Lady of Miracles Parish
Every Thursday 7:30-9:00 pm
Father Simonetti Parish Center
E. 86th Street- Brooklyn, NY 11236*

*St. Kevin Parish
Pro Sanctity Center
Tue. Evening 7:00—8:30 pm
Friday morning 9:30– 11:00
for info please call 718-357-5317 ext. 3*

CONOZCAMOS a CRISTO

*St. Fidelis Parish 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
1st and 3rd Sunday of each month
Sharing the Bible*

CONOZCAMOS A CRISTO

*Corpus Christi Parish
Wednesday May 16, June, 7:00-8:30 pm
Mr. & Mrs. Eduardo y Claudia Ruarte
32-34 72nd St., 2fl. East Elmhurst NY 11370*

CONOZCAMOS A CRISTO

*Bay Ridge—Brooklyn, NY 11209
Wednesday, June 11 Call 718-848-3206*

For more information for all events please call 718-649-0324



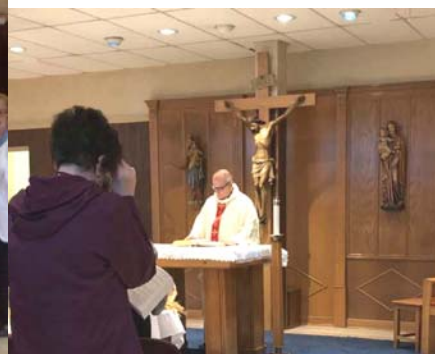
Above: Spanish Retreatants from different parishes.

Pro Sanctity Lenten Programs



Above: Seder Meal at Pro Sanctity

Right: Pictures of the Retreat on the "Eucharist" led by Msgr. Steven Aguggia



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.

Save the Dates

Sunday, September 9, 2018 3:00 to 6:00 pm

Family Gathering

St. Kevin - Msgr. Finnerty Hall

195th and 45th Ave (Parking lot) Flushing, NY 11358

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### Presentations

**"Rejoice and Be Glad"**

**"The Call to Holiness in Today's World"**

**On The Thoughts of Bishop Giaquinta and Pope Francis**

Tuesday, October 2, 9 at 7:30 pm by Msgr. Steven Aguggia

St. Kevin Parish, Flushing NY 11358

Thursday, October 4, 18 at 7:30 pm by Fr. John Costello

Holy Family Parish, Brooklyn, NY 11236