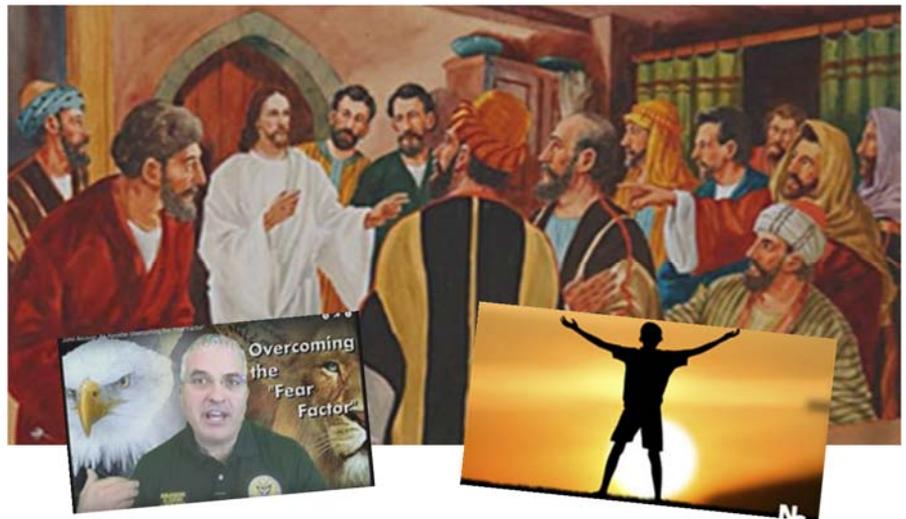




Published by Pro Sanctity East prosantitynewyork@verizon.net www.nyprosantity.org
 Summer 2020

The Holy Spirit During the Pandemic

We have celebrated Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is the remembrance of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin. They were gathered in the Upper Room. They were fearful. All the events of the suffering and death of Jesus were still in their minds and hearts and even though Jesus had risen, an event which filled them with wonder and joy, they were still afraid. It seems logical, really. It was all just too much. How much easier it was to shut yourself up in a room and



IN THIS ISSUE

- The Founder's Hopes... p 2**
- Pope Francis Said..... p 2**
- Coordinator's Words....p 3**
- Ask Pro Sanctity.....p 4**
- Personal Challenge.....p 4**
- Our Stories.....p 5**
- Saints Our Models.....p 6**
- Come Grow With Us.....p 7**
- Save the Dates.....p 8**

pretend like it all wasn't happening out there!

Then comes the Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised another, didn't he? He said it more than once. "I will send another, the Advocate!" On Pentecost, that Advocate, that Holy Spirit came and enlivened the frightened hearts of the Apostles who now were no longer fearful but ready to go out and proclaim this Good News of Jesus Christ!

How easy it is for us to identify with those frightened and reluctant Apostles. How

easy it is sometimes for us to hide in our own little rooms. There is too much going on "out there." Pandemics and all kinds of fears keep us locked in. It would be all too easy to sit around and do nothing.

But we have received the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who bestows on us His seven-fold gifts: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. These gifts were given first at Baptism and then completed,

Continued on page 3

The Reminder

Nina Riti

The physical doors of the church may have been closed but the church, the people, were alive and well ...Early christians did not have a physical church to go to, the temple was closed to the followers of *The Way* as they were called, but they found a way to connect. I think this pandemic opened the door for many of us to connect ...we saw mass on TV, we prayed alone in our homes more frequently saying the rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, groups got together in conference calls or zoom meetings.

...we stayed connected to each other and the Christ in each of us reached out and helped those in need. Soon the doors of the church will be open and once again we will have the privilege to receive the precious Body of Jesus but please let us not forget the lessons we have learned, the *wakeup call* of what is truly important and the challenges we face to overcome the stagnation we were in and be part of *the new normal*.



Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia
Angela Di Paola
Rosemary Darmstadt
Mona Edwards
Mariakutty Joseph
Nina L. Riti
Cathy Palermo Sakowski
Ann Sutherland

Words from the Founder



Servant of God William Giaquinta

Hope from the Founder

The spirituality of Bishop Giaquinta is directed toward the sanctification of the world. He believed in the goodness of human beings and made a point of looking for signs of hope in every event and

situation. While he identified materialism, hedonism, and secularism as problems in our culture, Bishop Giaquinta was quick to concur with the signs of hope expressed by St. John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter, *As the Third Millennium Draws Near*:

Within society in general, tremendous progress had been made in the fields of science and technology, health management, and environmental stewardship, even during Bishop Giaquinta's lifetime. His expectations continue to be justified by even greater advances in these areas twenty-six years after his death.

Within the Church, his hope for the expansion of the Universal Call to Holiness has flourished after Vatican II. In addition, the voice of the Holy Spirit has been heard as charisms and promotions of the laity increase and dialogue with other religions become more conventional.

Today, as the corona virus pandemic sweeps through the world, we see Bishop Giaquinta's hopes for solidarity and evidence of serving one's brothers and sisters growing more each day.

The Pro Sanctity Families he established continue to thrive in many parts of the world.

Of course, these developments were not just Hopes of Bishop Giaquinta – they were accompanied by his unceasing prayers, sacrifices, and efforts throughout his busy life and in the prayers he continues to offer for us from his heavenly home.

Adapted from a Presentation by Franca Salvo

What are your hopes for society, the Church, Pro Sanctity? Are you planning any actions you can take in order to support your hopes? Are you praying that Bishop Giaquinta's hopes regarding the Church and Pro Sanctity will continue to be fulfilled?

Rosemary Darmstadt

"To be Filled with Joy" From Pope Francis' Homily on 4/16/20

The Apostles knew that Jesus had already risen, "but when the Lord appeared, they were afraid...They were so filled with fear...they thought they were seeing a ghost. And He said, 'Why are you so agitated and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands, my feet'... and He lets them see his wounds" (Luke 24:38-39). 'Touch me and see for yourselves, a ghost has no flesh and bones.' And then there is a phrase that gives me a lot of consolation, and for this reason, this passage of the Gospel is one of my favorites: **'But they didn't believe for joy...'** (Luke 24:41) and were full of astonishment, for the joy prevented them from believing."

To say that "they were both filled with joy and paralyzed by joy" may sound inconsistent, but joy "is something different from being happy, positive, or radiant... It is not the consequence of emotions that emerge because of something marvelous... No, it is something more. **This joy that fills us is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.** Without the Spirit, we cannot have joy. To receive the joy of the Spirit is a grace."

"There is a passage in the Book of Nehemiah that will help us today in this reflection on joy... 'Preserve this joy because the joy of the Lord is your strength.' (Nehemiah 8:1-12). The great strength that we have, to transform, to preach the Gospel, to go forward as witnesses of life is the joy of the Lord, which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Today, let us ask him to grant us this fruit."

Continued from page 1

confirmed, at our Confirmation. These gifts allow us to proclaim the Faith!

So, while it was easy to sit around and do nothing, the Holy Spirit enlivens us to do more! That is why, even though the Church had to close her doors for safety's sake, the Church was alive and well and active in many other ways. Our priests and our Oblates have come up with new, innovative and interesting ways to reach out: Facebook, Emails, videos!

And it's not just in the priests and Apostolic Oblates in whom the Spirit is at work.

The Holy Spirit has been alive and active in all God's people: Video and Zoom prayer groups, Facebook devotions, a revival of families praying together and a longing in our hearts and souls to be back in our home, our church. Soon, with the help of God, we will be able to celebrate Mass together once again.

How has the Holy Spirit been alive and active in our lives? Let us all think about this now that we have celebrated the feast of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and let's spread the Good News!



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

FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Perseverance Through the Holy Spirit

Ann Sutherland, PhD

What an appropriate time to have celebrated Pentecost. Coincidence? Maybe! Just like the disciples, we seem to have spent the last two months or so in our own "Upper Rooms." Many of us were in fear, but despite these feelings, just like the disciples, we were reaching out to others. What a great outpouring of love and support among our fellow world citizens. It was amazing and touching to observe the Grace of creativity that resulted from this confinement. Total strangers were finding ways to help each other through prayers, songs, dances etc., helping to ease the negative effects of the shutdown.

For our part, Pro Sanctity members joined each other night after night in prayer. Praying for the heroic front-line workers, the afflicted, the dead and the eradication of this virus. We heard from others who were grateful for this outreach. Who had the opportunity to express themselves and hopefully lessen the anxieties they might otherwise have experienced. Additionally, donations were made to our local food pantries. Thank you so much for your generosity.

At the Feast of Pentecost, we renewed the manifestation of the Holy Spirit (The Paraclete, The Advocate, The Counselor) in our lives. As our lock down restrictions are beginning to relax let's allow the Holy Spirit to move us to continue to evangelize. Pope Francis, in his homily, told us that the Holy Spirit does not want us to remain in our Upper Rooms. That we must be able to push through the limits of our Faith, timid though they may be.

Pope Francis also touched on our diversities. The disciples, he said, were from different backgrounds, but Jesus did not try to change them or prepackage them before sending them to preach and teach others. He said we can all be different yet united.

As we look to the future, let us embrace our differences and allow the Holy Spirit to move us the way it did in the disciples. Acknowledge and manifest the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, so that we can ultimately reap the Fruits.

GENTLE REMINDERS!

FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE CENSUS FORM!

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

Ask Pro Sanctity... How can I stay connected to Jesus during COVID-19?

Mona Edwards

Jesus is always with us once we believe and allow Him to be present in us. "In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you." (John 14: 19-20).

The outbreak of the coronavirus has forced us to attend church in different ways such as by phone or by technology which may sometimes leave us feeling hopelessness in our Lord or that the Lord has abandon us. According to Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in regard to the COVID-19, "God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives." We are in a time where we have to stay safe for ourselves and those around us.

Here are a few ways in which we can stay connected to Jesus during "COVID-19:"

1) by having or inviting family scripture reading with those in our household 2) doing contemplative or deeper reflective prayer 3) listening to or singing praise and worship songs or hymns 4) leading or joining a prayer line by phone or by technology 5) watching daily online masses

We have to remember that the church is just a building of worship. Our church may be closed but we are the Church and we have to be the Church in our world.

The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

As I read the articles in this newsletter I asked myself...what can I share that will help awaken the challenge that we are confronting during this Pandemic experience? Msgr. Aguggia talks about shutting oneself in a room. With this stay at home mandate some of us might feel the fear and isolation that the apostles felt. The article powerfully challenges us and reminds us, like the Apostles, we have the Holy Spirit within and that if we call upon Him, He will give us the courage "to go out into the world " and be part of the change that is necessary.

As you continue to read the newsletter we come upon the reflections from the adaptation of Bishop Giacquinta's thoughts where it says "He believed in the goodness of human beings and made a point of looking for signs of hope in every event and situation". This pandemic surely has shown us the goodness of human beings and what we can do to make this a better place for all. After reading this article it concludes with truly challenging questions which I urge you to reread and pray upon to see how you can be part of the change needed.

The reflections on Pope Francis's homily discuss the meaning of joy. After reading it I thought of James 1:4 where he says "Count it all joy my brothers (and sisters) when you meet trials of various kinds for you to know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." Yes, this pandemic could be viewed as a heavy cross or a joy and blessing...a time to be still and listen to what the Lord wants of you. As much as I miss going to church and receiving the Eucharist and doing my thing ... I find my new routine enables me to start my day with mass in my living room and my new thing spends more time to be with the Lord and yet I am accomplishing so many things. Look at your life and see how the change, though only temporary, has opened up something new inside of you. Think about what St. Paul said to the Romans (5:3-5) ... "Rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character and character produces hope...because God's love has been poured into our heart through the Holy Spirit".

Our Regional Coordinator, Ann Sutherland, gives us much to ponder and I urge you to re-read the challenges and insights presented or the Ask Pro Sanctity article by Mona Edwards that presents us with excellent ways we can stay connected with Jesus. Think about how you plan to incorporate them into your life today and more importantly how you plan to continue to make them a part of your life when we go back to a new normal.

The saints are always an inspiration and after reading about St. Philip Neri I am sure you felt inspired and I want to leave you with a quote from him ... "A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one". I believe this pandemic awakened in many a need for change triggered by the death of George Floyd, All 50 states reacted... it led to mostly peaceful demonstrations and some violent outbursts...don't focus on the latter but pray with the help of the Holy Spirit who came to many of us in a powerful way during our Confirmation, that His gifts in us may support and bring about the change that the former was protesting and marching to achieve.

Our Stories



Left: O.L. of Trust celebration mass at O.L. of Miracles Church with Msgr. Steven Aguggia & Deacon Parra



Right: Fr. John Costello with members of Pro Sanctity smile for the camera after a day of prayer ...just before the Lockdown!!



Left: Members of Pro Sanctity meet for Bible sharing at St. Fidelis Church



Below: Festival of Faith for children at OL of Angeles

Below: The pandemic did not stop Pro Sanctity members from helping their neighbors in need



Above: A Pro Sanctity member volunteers to deliver clothes to



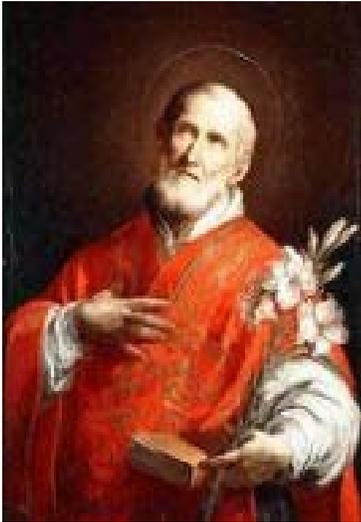
Above: Ann Sutherland helps in the pantry of O.L. Miracles with food and toiletries



Left: A group of Pro Sanctity members from St Fidelis with Msgr. Herron, Fr. Vito & Mr. Gerard Galvez some teens and young adults distribute food on Wed.

Our Models ... Saints for Our Times

Cathy Palermo Sakowski



ST. PHILIP NERI

PATRON SAINT OF JOY

If one had to choose one saint who showed the humor side of holiness that would be St. Philip Neri. At a time of religious and cultural upheaval in Rome St. Philip Neri was a sign of contradiction just because he was happy, always rejoicing in the Lord and leading others to discover his joy. He would say *"A joyful heart is more easily perfect than a downcast one"*.

FIRE OF DIVINE LOVE

Philip Neri was born July 21, 1515 in Florence, Italy. At the age of 18 he received a vision that he had a mission in Rome. In 1535 he moved to Rome where he spent most of his time in solitude and prayer. He set out to help the poor people of Rome and to re-evangelize the city which at the time was corrupt and demoralized.

During the day he helped others but his nights were spent in solitude praying in the church or in the catacombs. One night on the eve of the Pentecost, when he was earnestly asking for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a globe of fire appeared to him and entered his mouth causing his heart to dilate. Philip was filled with such a fire of Love that he was unable to bear it. He felt overwhelming joy and his body began to shake. From the time of the miracle until his death, his heart would palpitate violently whenever he performed any spiritual act.

He helped reform the church, clergy and taught the youth who he attracted with his great personality and humor. As more people got to know him the movement known as the "Oratory of the Laity" started. Here people, including Nobility, followed him in the street for prayer and joined him in tending to the poor and the sick in hospitals.

APOSTLE OF ROME

At the urging of his confessor, Philip was ordained in 1551. As a priest he loved to hear confessions and had the gift of knowing people's sins before they confessed them. With charity and often a joke, he would lead them to genuine conversion.

A well known tradition he started is the Seven Churches Pilgrimage. These were walks he led which included music and laughter, in keeping with the saint's cheerful personality, and were a way of encouraging people to discover faith through

visiting Churches throughout Rome. His efforts to reach out to the lay people and not simply to the clergy made him one of the great figures in the Counter Reformation of the Catholic church. He soon earned the title "Apostle of Rome".

He is known most for the formation of the "Congregation of the Oratory" which was a community of secular priests and clerics dedicated to prayer and preaching.

CANONIZATION

On 26,1595, he passed away after having spent a long day joyfully listening to confessions. He was beatified by Pope Paul V in 1615 and canonized in 1622. His feast day is celebrated on May 26th.

St. Philip Neri reminds us that being a Christian is not incompatible with Joy. In fact it causes joy. He believed that a cheerful attitude was far more Christian than being somber all the time.

AS HE WOULD SAY:

"Cheerfulness strengthens the heart and makes us persevere in a good life: wherefore the servant of God ought always to be in Good spirits"

“Praying at Home”

Msgr. Aguggia Reflects on a Question Many Will Ask After the Pandemic

I Can Pray at Home, Can't I?

Spiritually, one of the effects of the Pandemic of 2020 has been a growth in the appreciation of the communal celebration of the Mass. While everyone appreciated the live-streams of the daily and Sunday celebrations, there was clearly something missing. We wanted to be with others. We wanted to pray together. We wanted to be a community again. When the novelty of the broadcast Mass wore off, when the technology got perfected, when we began to realize that although it was nice to listen to the Mass while still in our pajamas, we realized there was something missing.

And we longed to be back. That longing was good. It was a powerful reminder that the Eucharist which is our central form of worship is, of its very nature, something we do together. It is “communion.”

The Mass is the most important and sublime prayer we pray and in the Mass we worship God and we pray for one another. Sometimes we forget that these are two separate, although related, components.

Worship

At Mass we participate in the offering of the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. It is not a new offering or a sacrifice offered because Christ's was not effective. It is the one sacrifice of Jesus made present on our altar. Similarly, the priest is a participant in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ, the High Priest. He ultimately is the true and only priest.

This sacrifice is the highest worship we offer. This is why we can call it the “Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.” A sacrifice is an offering to God. It is an act of worship. It is us giving glory and praise to God. It is worship. It is why we have a “priest” and not a “minister” and why we have an “altar” and not just a “table.”



Prayer

The second part of what we do at Mass is pray. We pray for ourselves and for one another. We pray for our needs, the needs of the Church and the world, of our family, friends, and neighbors—of those whom we know and those whom we do not know.

In a real way this is a communal enterprise. Although we are always united because of our common baptism and oneness in Christ, at Mass we enter into real communion. It is communion with God and with one another, especially in the participation of Holy Communion. We have “communion” or “union” with God and one another.”

Here the “altar” becomes a “table” in a sense, because here we gather as one in prayer and communion.

I Can Pray at Home, Can't I?

We can, should, and even must, pray at home. Our lives should be lives of prayer. We pray always when we always have before us a sense of God's presence in our daily lives. So we should pray at home.

However, because of the worship we render and the communion we share, our participation at Mass is unique and irreplaceable. We cannot duplicate it at home. We can view Mass on TV or Facebook, but that is not participating; it is watching. We are called to do more than watch; we are called to worship and to communion.

That's Mass!



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

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FLUSHING, NY
PERMIT NO. 1461



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 14, 2020

Mass 11:00 AM

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

More Details to follow