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Our Roadmap of Faith

The Creed - Part II

The Creed, our statement of Faith, is a roadmap for our Faith. It contains various points which we can consider individually and which, in fact, could become starting points for prayer and meditation.

In the next three articles, we will examine in a rather cursory way, the Creed's statements of the Faith, in the hope that they will become points for our deeper contemplation.



The Vatican and altar of St. Peter's: the beginning of our continuing faith journey

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I believe in one God, the Father Almighty... The Jewish religion of the Old Testament was unique in its proclamation that God was One and there was no other. The people were surrounded by groups who saw a god in everything in nature. The genius of the Jewish people was to come to understand that in the entire universe there was one God, the Father and Creator of all. The God of the Jewish people revealed Himself as a God of love Who loved His people and would offer a way for their salvation.

Never would the People

of God walk alone. God, their Father, was with them. The God of love revealed Himself through the Prophets and the events of the Old Testament and in this way God's people came to experience an intimacy with Him. He is a personal God, not one who stays far off and sees His creation from afar. He is a God who enters the course of human events, of history. God Who is outside of history enters history. The saving event of the Exodus for the Jewish people is an example of the way that God is so close to His people and how He

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This Just In...

Jessi Kary, A.O.

See the Founder's Birthplace and Much More!

Celebrate the 100th birthday of Bishop Giaquinta with the Pro Sanctity Movement from all around the world!

You are invited to join us for a pilgrimage to the birthplace of the Founder in Noto, Sicily. We will participate in the Pro Sanctity International Convention in Noto, spend several days seeing the sights of Sicily, and then head to Rome, with a day in Assisi!

More details will be available soon, but the approximate dates will be June 17-July 1, 2014.

Please mark your calendar, start saving your pennies, and consider joining us for this exciting celebration!

Still Available...

Pro Sanctity's wonderful annual formation booklets are still available at the Center in Flushing! The theme is *Famished for the Same Bread*. Nine sessions full of Scripture, Catechism, writings of Bishop Giaquinta, excerpts on the document for the Year of Faith, prayers, and more! You can pray with or study on your own, find a friend, or start your own small group. Those in the School of Initial Formation are encouraged to use this in small groups during the summer break. *Famished for the Same Bread* is a wonderful tool to assist in your ongoing formation! Call 718-649-0324 for a booklet

Pro Sanctity East Newsletter Editors

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Words from the Founder

Servant of God William Giaquinta

Excerpts from *Invocations to the Father*

God, you who are love, inflame our hearts with your love.
Father, you who begot the Word and with the Word the source of the Spirit, come and abide in our hearts.

Almighty Creator, transform us with the power of your love.
You created man and woman in your image and likeness, help us become your worthy children.

After the original sin, you promised us Mary, the woman of hope, help us turn to her with trust...

Father, you sent us the Word made flesh as your image; Grant us the grace to see you in him.

Heavenly Father, grant us the strength to journey toward perfection...

Father, you live in eternal happiness; receive us one day, too, so that we may praise and love you with Jesus Christ, with the Divine Spirit, and with our Mother Mary. Amen.



Papal Continuity Revisited

Rosemary Darmstadt

So much has been written in both the secular and religious press these past two months about the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of Pope Francis that I can't remember where I read what. Thus, this article is perhaps a fusion of many.

Our newly-elected Pope Francis, submitted his resignation as Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio of Buenos Aires when he turned 75 in December, 2011. Known for his great humility, he has as Pope, made it abundantly clear that he is now, first and foremost, the Bishop of Rome.

Nevertheless, he is currently 76 years old – one year be-

yond the age at which all Catholic bishops are required by Canon Law to turn in their resignation. It is also worthy of note that when elected, Blessed Pope John XXIII and Pope Benedict XVI were two and three years, respectively, beyond the obligatory retirement age.

Although these appear to be contradictory circumstances, the rules do not apply to the pope since he is the lawmaker. Moreover, the Holy Spirit in his divine wisdom, may be pointing to two important options in the future of papal continuity. Perhaps the conclave may feel freer to elect younger popes, and these popes themselves will ascend to the papacy knowing that they do not have to remain in the office until death, but may step down for sufficient reasons. On the other hand, the conclave may also feel free to elect an older man to the papacy because, like Pope Benedict XVI, the pope may retire when he no longer has the health or spiritual and physical energy to continue as head of the Catholic Church.

It's also possible that the Holy Spirit may have some entirely different alternatives in mind, and whatever they are, our prayers must continue that he will always direct and guide his Holy Church and its leaders.

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delivers them from harm and death.

Often we tend to skip through the Old Testament. The New Testament is, after all, easier to read and more familiar. But the Old Testament is a love story. From the start (In the beginning...) we see how God is not far away and how He loves His creation (and He saw that it was good...) When man, because of the free will with which the loving God provided him, turned from Him again and again, God did not abandon man. He offered him covenants

and sent prophets to call the people back, time and again.

So here is God, Almighty Creator of all, who is so in love with His creation that He enters into it and shares it with all the people.

On a personal faith level we can ask:

1. How close does God feel to me? If He feels far away, why?
2. Am I like the people of the Old Testament, sometimes rejecting the offer of God to be in a close relationship?

3. Do I listen to the "prophets" God sends into my life?



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

From the Desk of the Director of our Local Board

Donna Spoto

I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful Easter Season and that you continue to rejoice in the Risen Lord!

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have completed Year One of the Pro Sanctity School of Formation in New York. It has proven to be an equally wonderful experience for those very familiar with Pro Sanctity and those that experienced Pro Sanctity for the very first time. We learned many great tools of interiority to store in our spiritual toolboxes that will be put to good use as we continue to grow in holiness and strive to be Saints! Year Two of the School of Formation will begin in September. We will publish the dates as soon as they are available.

In June, we will celebrate Founder's Day. This is an annual celebration where we honor our founder, Servant of God Guglielmo Giaquinta. Please mark your calendars to join us on Saturday, June 22, 2013, at the 5:00 pm Mass at St. Mary, Mother of Jesus Parish in Bensonhurst. Msgr. Andrew Vaccari will be the main celebrant. Following the celebration we will gather in the Holy Family Center at SMMJ for a light supper and presentation on our founder.

This will be a particularly exciting and special Founder's Day celebration as it will be the precursor to the **Year of the Founder** which has been declared by the International Pro Sanctity Board to begin on November 1, 2013 and will run until November 1, 2014. All Pro Sanctity Centers around the world have been asked to plan special events throughout this year to allow everyone to come to know and deepen their personal relationship with our founder. A schedule of events will be published for Pro Sanctity East.

As the Year of the Founder is an international celebration, we will be joining all the centers around the world for an international Pro Sanctity Convention in Sicily on June 20-22, 2014. Please see the This Just In... article on page 2 of this newsletter for more detailed information.

Test your Knowledge of the Old Testament

1. Who in the Old Testament had the worst childhood?
2. How do we know Abraham was smart?
3. Who was the greatest female financier in the Old Testament?
4. Where in the Old Testament is tennis mentioned?
5. What excuse did Adam give his children as to why they no longer lived in Eden?
6. What kind of light did Noah use in Ark?
7. Nobody in the Ark could play cards. Why?
8. In what season did Eve eat of the forbidden fruit?
9. Who was the greatest male financier in the Old Testament?
10. What were Noah's famous words as he was loading the Ark?

Ask Pro Sanctity...

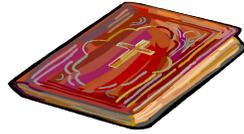
Salvation History - Part II

Agnes Rus, A.O.

This is the second article on the covenant and it will focus on the covenants made by God with His people in the Old Testament. The word Covenant comes from the Latin "convenere," which means "come together." It is an agreement between God and His people, binding them one to the other.

Why did God decide to make covenants with us? Because we humans have chosen sin and thus separate ourselves from our Loving Father. But God Who is Divine Mercy, initiated covenants to bring us back into His love. "The covenant then is not a pact built on reciprocity, but rather a gift, a creative act of God's love."¹

In the Old Testament God established five covenants: with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. In all the covenants we can see four recurring elements as shown in this legend: (A) a blessing, (B) a condition or curse, (C) the Sign, and (D) the resultant form of God's family.²



the Sabbath - keep it Holy (D) marriage - the man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife and they become one flesh.

Second: God's Covenant with Noah—Genesis 9, 9-17 – (A) God will never flood the entire earth again (B) do not drink the blood of animals or shed human blood (C) a rainbow (D) traditional family

Third: God's Covenant with Abram—Genesis 17, 1-10 – (A) land and many blessed descendants (B) circumcision (C) circumcision (D) tribe

Fourth: God's Covenant with Moses—Exodus 34, 10, 24 – (A) becoming God's chosen people (B) they MUST keep God's law and the Commandments

(C) the Passover (D) a holy nation

Fifth: God's Covenant with David—2 Samuel 7, 9-16 – (A) God becomes our Father and we become his child (B) chastisement with "the rod of men" (C) Solomon's Temple (D) an eternal royal kingdom

In the next article we will consider the Covenant promised through Jeremiah in the Old Testament and fulfilled in Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

First: God's Covenant with Adam and Eve—Genesis 2, 23-24 – (A) their descendants will fill the earth and subdue it (B) do not eat from the tree (C)

1. Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Benedict XVI Pope emeritus), "New Covenant"
2. Catholic Bible 101, Covenants in the Old Testament

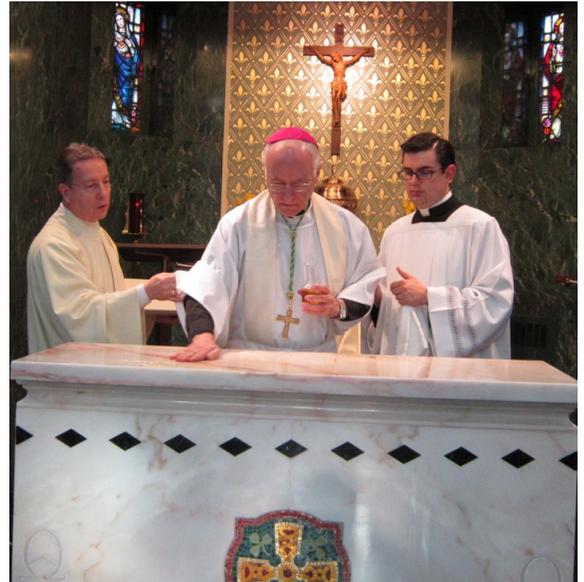
The Personal Challenge

Nina L. Riti

Msgr. Aguggia says in the lead article "We see how God is not far away and how He loves His creation (and He saw that it was good...)." Every Sunday when I am teaching the Confirmation class at Our Lady of Miracles, I ask the candidates to listen to the Gospel and the Readings...The First Reading is usually from the Old Testament, but during the Easter Season it's from the Acts of the Apostles written by Luke (so we can journey with the Apostles and share what the early Church was experiencing). The Second Reading is usually a letter from St. Paul to the new Christians he had converted to the teaching of Jesus so they would not forget what he taught them and put it into practice in their daily lives. Finally, we stand up for the Gospel, the teachings of our Lord and Savior and a blueprint of how to live our lives today as witnesses to this truth. I tell the students the Sacred Scripture is a love letter from God to them and that they must listen to the Sacred Word and hear what the Lord is telling them and calling them to do.

In his article, Msgr. refers to God the Father and the powerful message of the Old Testament. For the Jewish people, following the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament now also referred to as Hebrew Scriptures) in a world surrounded by pagans was not easy. Look at Abraham, an old man who is told by God the Father to take his wife (who was well beyond child-bearing age) and go to a place He will tell him about because he will be the father of a great nation that is so large he won't be able to count them. Does he say to God...leave my home, where I am safe and secure or be the father of a nation...God, my wife is old and we have no children. When he finally leaves his home and goes to this new land and has one son, God tells him to take the boy and sacrifice him...again does he say God, ONE son and you want me to sacrifice him? How can I be the father of a nation...but his FAITH is so strong and belief in God his Father so trusting, that he goes to the mountain ready to sacrifice his son as God had asked him. But our Loving and Wonderful God was testing him...and as usual, waits for the last minute to stop Abraham from killing his only son and substitutes a lamb that was caught in the bushes in his place. This is just one example of the kind of faith that the Old Testament wants us to imitate. So when you pray, don't just **say** the words, but truly **pray** the words of the Creed starting with "I believe In God the Father Almighty...." Take up the challenge and embrace your faith and believe that this all loving, all powerful God will be with you and see you through all the hard times you are going through. Listen to the Sunday readings and accept the challenge that the love letter to you from God is offering you this week.

Our Stories



Above right: After renovation of the Bethany chapel Bishop Chappetto reconsecrates the altar before celebrating mass (right) with (left to right) Msgr. Andrew Vaccari, Deacon Julio Barreneche, Frs. John Costello and Louis DeGaetano
 Above: Angela and Giuditta bring up the offertory gifts at the first mass after reconsecration of the altar.



2013 Annual Retreat at Don Bosco

Lower left: The group smiles for the camera at the close of the retreat.

Above left: Fr. Fonti blesses Rudy and Tess Sugaste on their 38th Wedding Anniversary.

Above right: Msgr. Aguggia smiles for the camera before joining retreatants for lunch.





**Blessed Carlos Manuel
Rodriguez Santiago**

**Puerto Rico's First
Blessed**

Carlos was born in Caguas, Puerto Rico, on November 22, 1918, as the second of five children in a deeply religious family. Though, from the time Carlos was six years old, he and his family lived with his maternal grandparents because their own home and most of their possessions had been destroyed by a fire. Thus his faith was made even stronger under the influence of his devout Catholic grandmother and the Sisters of Notre Dame, who taught him until he reached the eighth grade. Upon graduation, Carlos was first in his class and won a medal for Religion.

Afflicted by illness

Shortly thereafter, as Carlos courageously saved his cousin from an attack by a rabid dog, he himself was bitten and developed grave intestinal problems which compromised his health for the rest of his life. His fragile condition interrupted his high

school education, but he went on to earn his diploma on his own while working as an office clerk. When he later attended the University of Puerto Rico, he again was an excellent student but his health once more caused him to discontinue his studies after two years. However, "Charlie," as Carlos was then called, became even stronger in his faith, received tutoring from a friend, read avidly, and learned how to play the piano and organ.

Carlos becomes a lay minister

As his brother had become a Benedictine priest (the first Puerto Rican to become Abbot of a Monastery) and one of his sisters had become a Carmelite nun, Charlie while carrying on his work as an office clerk and despite his debilitating illness, became a lay minister in many essential ways. A life-long lover of the liturgy he published magazines to help people better understand the liturgy and translated articles on the liturgy from Latin or English into Spanish – often at his own expense. A true believer in liturgical renewal, he advocated participation by the laity, use of the vernacular, and observance of the Paschal Vigil. His favorite prayer was the *Exsultet* intoned at the Vigil and his most noteworthy quote is, "We live for this night."

The apostolic work of this tireless follower of Christ also included teaching catechism to high school students; co-founding the chorus, *Te Deum Laudamus*; organizing

Compiled by Rosemary Darmstadt

discussion groups throughout the country; and membership in the Brotherhood of Christian Doctrine, Holy Name Society, and the Knights of Columbus.

In 1963, Charlie underwent aggressive surgery that revealed terminal rectal cancer and in the same year he died on July 13 at the age of 44, just a year after Vatican II began and with it the realization of his desire for liturgical reform. There was one last suffering that Blessed Charlie endured before his death – 'The Dark Night of the Soul' during which he felt abandoned by God, but finally overcame through daily reception of the Eucharist.

The first miracle

In 1981, a woman who had known Charlie during his college days, was miraculously cured of non-Hodgkin's malignant lymphoma and attributed the cure to his intercession. This led to the process of his beatification and he was declared Blessed in 2001. Relics of Blessed Charlie are on display in the Cathedral of Caguas and the Cathedral of San Juan.

In a heart-rending example of his great love of poverty, as an adult Charlie owned only one pair of shoes. They are now reserved in his sister's house, where people leave notes in them asking Blessed Charlie for his prayers.

Blessed Charlie's feast-day has recently been changed from July 13, the date of his death, to May 4, the date of his baptism in Caguas.



Mark your Calendar 2013!

...Come and grow with us



There will be Eucharistic Adoration every **Monday** from **10 AM to 5 PM** in the chapel of the Pro Sanctity Center at 45-30 195th St., Flushing, NY 11358

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

Festival of Faith

for children 3 -9 yrs

Arts and crafts

O L of Angels, Bay Ridge

Saturday, June 15

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Spanish Mini Retreat

St. Fidelis Parish

124th St. & 14th Ave,

College Point, NY 11356

Madonna Room 11:15 am

Sunday, Junio 2 y 16

Bible Sharing

Getting to know Jesus

Every Thursday

7:30—9:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Miracles School



Fun and Faith Teen group O.L. of Angels, relax and play before coming to help as group leaders with the festival of Faith for children in the above picture



Answers to Old Testament Quiz on page 3

1. Abraham - He was the son of Terah (pronounced terror)
2. He knew a LOT
3. Pharaoh's daughter - she went to the Bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet (profit)
4. Genesis - Moses served on Pharaoh's courts
5. Your mother ate us out of house and home
6. Flood lights
7. Because Noah was standing on the Deck
8. Early in the Fall
9. Noah - he was floating his stock while everyone was in liquidation
10. Now I HERD everything

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.

Pro Sanctity Invites YOU

to COME and CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S DAY

Servant of God

Bishop Guglielmo Giaquinta

Saturday, June 22, 2013

Liturgy at 5:00 PM

Mary Mother of Jesus Church

23-26 84th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

*Main Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Andrew Vaccari
Pastor of Mary Mother of Jesus Parish*



*Light supper and presentation on the Founder follows in the Holy Family Center
For information call 718-649-0324*