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A Note From the Editor

Paula Carmody



Hello to all this Holy Christmas Season from the Pro Sanctity Center in Fullerton! Here is hoping that this will be a very special season for you, a special season of caring and sharing and giving and receiving as we are sparked by a persevering faith in our Heavenly Father's continuing and forever presence in our lives. Certainly it is also a time of reflection as 2010 winds down and the Lord's gift of 2011 looms ahead.

Most likely for most of us, 2010 has been a mixture of beautiful memories of times and activities and events shared with loved ones--family and friends--as well as a stream of challenges and difficulties dealing with life's unexpected or unwanted machinations. And through it all, we know that our dear Lord is with us, in the good times and in the bad; and He is our strength, always encouraging us and calming us and guiding us down our individual paths of holiness.

As Catholic Christians we are reminded in 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 5, to "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." We celebrate and rejoice in the power of God's love and the ability through Him to succeed in our dreams and our destinies. To all of you, I wish you the blessings of the season, the true spirit and joy of Christmas, and the very happiest and holiest New Year.



*A Blessed Christmas to all our members and friends
from all of us!*

The Pro Sanctity Board & Apostolic Oblates



We, the Pro Sanctity Board and Apostolic Oblates, wish to express our gratitude to all Pro Sanctity members and friends who have supported our apostolate throughout the year with your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Our special thanks to those who supported the recent Raffle Fundraiser through ticket purchases and prize donations.

NEWSLETTER OF PRO SANCTITY WEST Good News

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In This Issue....

<i>A Note from the Editor</i>	1
<i>The Seed of Faith: Giving Life to the Saint</i>	2
<i>Pro Sanctity: A Great Calm</i>	3
<i>Is Your Spiritual Life Colorful or Beiging?</i>	4
<i>Oblates Corner: Pro Sanctity on the Go!</i>	5
<i>Remembering Marko</i>	6
<i>Generosity and Gratitude: A Virtue and Attitude</i>	7

The Seed of Faith: Giving Life to the Saint

Fr. Michael F. Murphy
Apostolic Sodales



In the Gospel According to St. Luke, chapters 13 to 19, Jesus is travelling with His disciples from Galilee to Jerusalem. He uses this journey as an opportunity to teach on discipleship. The Apostles have heard Him describe the unfaithful disciple as that Lost Sheep, who walks away from the flock; the unfaithful disciple as the Lost Coin, who hides in the darkness of ignorance; as the Prodigal Son who desires his own way of living or as the older brother who cannot forgive; and as the unscrupulous steward who takes care of himself first. He also describes the unfaithful disciple as the Rich Man and his sins of omission, ignoring the plight of Lazarus.

And just as Jesus concludes with the story of Lazarus and the rich man, He says this: *“It would be better if a millstone was put around their neck and they were cast into the seas.”* Jesus is saying that this punishment would be preferable than what lay in store for the unfaithful disciple who leads others astray. Well, to avoid this, the Apostles say to Jesus: *“Increase our faith,”* because they desire to be better disciples. They want Jesus to give them a remedy for their weak faith.

The answer that Jesus gives is a bit strange because He tells them: They don’t need more faith. They have all the faith they need. What they must do is use what faith they have because even a tiny bit of faith is enough to do great things. *Faith, the size of a mustard seed,* Jesus says, *is all that is needed.* Faith that small would be enough to transform what seems to be immovable and Jesus uses the example of the mulberry tree, which has a deep and extensive root system and is extremely difficult to uproot and replant.

We who feel helpless and small, in the face of this massive culture of selfishness and immorality, have all the faith we need to transform the world. We have the faith to change things, to change ourselves from selfishness to sanctity, to change our society from the culture of death to a culture of life. We must know in our hearts that we are capable of doing so much more. We were made for great things; we were made to be saints. But, we don’t realize that God has given us everything we need to achieve greatness; we just don’t realize it.

The Creator planted in our souls the seed of faith, of divine life, and this was done at Baptism. It is up to us, then, to nurture it, to nurture our faith, to live it, to express it and if we do, it will grow. It is through living our faith that we become fully human, fully alive after the manner of Jesus. We must not become discouraged because it is not happening fast enough. Often, we do not recognize our faith is growing because we are not patient. Jesus teaches this in the Gospel: *“Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here and take your place at table’? Would he not rather say, put on an apron and wait on me while I eat.”* Jesus is saying this: *“We expect immediate results from our effort. We expect that the slightest effort in virtue should result in success and accolades. We are impatient with the daily struggle; with the journey to salvation. We want to sit at the head table now and be waited on.”*

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta is a tremendous model for us in this. She wrote in her journal that: *“For decades there was this terrible sense of loss; this untold darkness, this loneliness, this continual longing for God which gives me this deep pain in my heart.”* Now, Mother Teresa clearly did not feel the tangible warmth of God’s presence. Not just for months or years, but, she says, for decades she did not feel God’s presence. She did not feel she had a strong faith; she prayed that Jesus would strengthen her faith BUT, she never stopped living her faith, she never gave up on her faith, as weak as it seemed to her, she continued to persevere. She never felt her mission was over, that her work was done. She never felt that she was ready to sit at the table.

Now, look at Mother Teresa who thought her faith was tiny and yet, look at all the lives she changed around the world. Look at what she did around the world. She persevered, becoming fully human and fully alive, and her sanctity was recognized around the world. It is not the *quantity* of our faith but the *quality* of our faith that is important. Servant of God Guglielmo Giaquinta reminds that that we must love to the maximum; the maximum for each person is different. What is important is that we love with our *all!* *Faith, the size of a mustard seed, will make great things happen.*

(continued on next page)

Generosity and Gratitude: A Virtue and an Attitude

Palmira Tafani

Many are the virtues and attitudes placed in the human heart by the Spirit: patience, kindness, humility, courage, faith, hope, and love (to mention a few). They all are our “companions” on the road to holiness, if we care to pack them into our traveling-bags and treasure them along the way.

At this season of thanksgiving and celebration, the season of All Saints, the approaching of Christ’s birth, the beginning a New Year, and the like, it seems appropriate to look into the bag and search for that virtue, or those virtues, that most powerfully tug at our heart, evoking sentiments of awe, amazement, and praise. The virtue we like to think of at this time is **GENEROSITY**—a virtue seldom remembered or mentioned.

Daily, as we pray for jobless people, and people who find it difficult to make ends meet, we wonder how parents can attend to the needs of their families, whether they be their children’s education or the various demands of family life. Aware of such difficulties, all the more we marvel at the great **GENEROSITY** by which all of you—members and friends of Pro Sanctity—continue to respond to the appeals of the Pro Sanctity Apostolate. In this unity of efforts toward the developments of the charism it

appears that **GENEROSITY** is your virtue, and **GRATITUDE** our attitude.

Indeed, we do not want to miss this special time of thanksgiving, of All Saints, of preparation for Christ’s birth, of a new chance to live and to give, a New Year in which we are particularly moved to acknowledge the Generosity of all our benefactors and supporters. We wish to thank all of you for your response to the recent Raffle Drive; our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Andy Clay for sponsoring the raffle with the timeshare, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Paquin for the admission to Disneyland. We wish to thank all of you who have donated to garage sales (too many to mention...), those of you who continue to assist us (we, the computer semi-illiterate...) with computer programming, especially Phillip Shifflet with the website (check us out: www.capro sanctity.org). Our thanks go to the *Good News* team (writers, editors, coordinators, etc); all of you who, behind the scenes, believe in, support, and work for the Universal Call to Holiness. Our special thanks go to our Priests, both friends and Pro Sanctity Sodales for their availability to the sacramental, spiritual, and liturgical needs of Pro Sanctity.

THANKS, BLESSINGS, GRATITUDE, & PRAYER!

Remembering Marko (cont.)

fundraising dinner for Pro Sanctity, Marko and Ruth were there more often than not to support our efforts as well as to call attention to Pro Sanctity’s “Call to Holiness” theme.

The loss of Marko’s living presence among us at Pro Sanctity gatherings and events is very obvious; his bright smile and loud laughter now will remain only in our memories. Yet, Marko’s death is also a very personal loss to me and Antonietta. He was a truly exceptional friend to us, and we will miss him always.



Marko and Ruth Botich with Antonietta and Hugh Treacy
Pro Sanctity Chapel, Fullerton, California
August 1996.

Remembering Marko

Hugh J. Treacy

Three volleys of seven rifle shots pierced the silent air around us. A precise, respectful salute by the Gunny and other members of the U. S. Marine honor guard brought the tips of their white-gloved hands slowly upward, then down, thumbs parallel to the red stripe in their dress blues. A muted bugler blew *Taps* as even the chatty birds grew silent, respectful of this sacred, sorrowful moment.

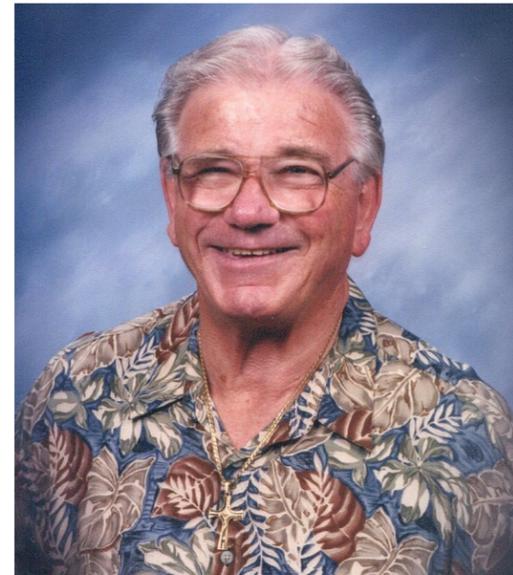
The flag for which he had fought so bravely long ago was folded smartly, reverently, into a triangle shape, and within those tight folds now rested the spent cartridges of the salute he earned through his service to his country as a member of the "Greatest Generation." The Gunny presented this flag to his wife and family with great dignity, precise movements, and the everlasting gratitude of a nation who needed him, as a teenager, to fight for our freedom. He had answered that call with great distinction.

Who was this man honored on that day, his birthday? What had he accomplished in nearly 85 years of life? Why were so many present to remember him, to say goodbye, and to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven?

Quite simply, as he was to others, Marko Eugene Botich was also our friend and more. He was our surrogate father. Antonietta and I had "adopted" him, and he had "adopted" us. He was my trusted adviser, a fatherly figure ready to offer a supportive word or two when asked. He was my hero. My sadness at his passing is only tempered by my unshakable faith that his soul lives forever now; I am as confident of that as I am of the beauty of tomorrow's dawn and dusk and the daylight in between.

Marko was born in the tiny port town of Dockton, Washington, but he grew to maturity in San Pedro, California. His values were shaped by the Great Depression, his parents' work ethic, and his Catholic faith. At 17 he joined the United States Marine Corps--with his mother's permission--to fight in that effort to defeat the enemy who had attacked us so savagely at Pearl Harbor.

When the war ended, Marko made the long voyage home with a new friend he had hidden inside his clothing, close to his heart, until his troop ship



Marko E. Botich

docked in San Francisco. Little Jocko the monkey adopted Marko on Okinawa; he was the subject of many stories and much laughter over the years for Marko, his family, and his friends. The story of Jocko still brings a smile to my face and lightens my heart, despite the fresh grief I feel for the passing of his master.

Antonietta and I remember with great fondness our adventures with Marko and Ruth. One of our most favorite experiences with them was an all-day junket to Laguna Beach. We walked all day long, from one end of the city to the other, window-shopping, eating lunch, enjoying an ice cream, admiring the sidewalk art shows, talking and laughing the whole time. At the end of the day, Antonietta and I, in our forties then were tired, but Marko and Ruth simply kicked into overdrive, their higher energy levels very apparent.

We met Marko and Ruth at the Pro Sanctity Center in Fullerton at least fifteen years ago. Marko had been President of the Pro Sanctity Board, and he had served on the architectural committee for the Diocese of Orange. When Antonietta and I became actively involved organizing the annual Black & White

(continued on next page)

Pro Sanctity: A Great Calm

Phillip Shifflet

Friends, as I reflect upon my experience with the Pro Sanctity Movement, I immediately think of the Gospel account in which Jesus calms the storm (Matthew 8:23-27).

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O men of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. And the men marveled saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey him?"

This Gospel story is straightforward when taken literally. But what is the great *spiritual* lesson here? Prominent theologians have interpreted this passage in this way: a well-ordered soul is one in which Christ is at the center. When we stray from Him, when Christ is no longer the center of our lives--when Christ "falls asleep"--then do the storms come! Then sin invades our lives, and the darkness consumes us. When Christ is not the center, then the waves crash and the winds thrash. But when Christ is alive in us--when Christ is "awake"--the winds are

Seed of Faith (cont.)

Mary Lineburger is a volunteer for Catholic Relief Services and she recently wrote of the faith that she saw among the Haitian people after the earthquake in January. This is what she wrote: "The first night of sleeping outside I could hear crying all night long, wails of mourning but also singing of praise to God. People in spontaneous settlements and in empty lots and in the middle of streets were singing hymns continually through the night to keep up their spirits. When the earth would shake with a violent aftershock, there would be screams followed immediately by louder singing. I am asked how my faith carried me through the difficult times in the



Phillip with cousins Jenna and Megan.

rebuked and there comes a great calm.

If you've ever lived with three younger sisters, then you know well that every once in a while you just need to get away. Many times I yearn for a kind of retreat; but, ironically, I withdraw myself to the Pro Sanctity Center where I am in the company of three Oblates. To run *from* three women, I run *to* three women.

So what's so different about two Italians and a Nebraskan?

Within Pro Sanctity, Christ is the center of everyday living. The focus of the Oblates' entire lives is undeniably on Him. During my visits to Pro Sanctity, I experience moments of great calm no matter what I'm involved in doing--in the chapel, praying the Rosary and Vespers; in the kitchen, preparing the homemade espresso; kneeling in adoration of our Lord and Savior; setting the dining room table for the next meal; or asking Mary and the Saints for their constant intercession. No matter the task, peace and serenity are abundant.

When the storms of sin arise, run to Pro Sanctity! Learn from them how to make Christ the center of your life. There, you shall find a great calm!

early days--seeing bodies stacked up on the sides of streets, delivering medicine to a hospital where the injured were lined up along the wall as there were not stretchers or beds.

"I have to say," she writes, "It was other people's faith that helped me most. The real heroes are the men, women and children who find the faith to face every day even when they have nothing. The little that they had worked so hard to get was wiped away in 35 seconds, yet they never stopped praising God." ("Real Life: Real Women: Real Heroes," *Radiant: A Catholic Magazine For Young*

(continued on page 5)

Is Your Spiritual Life Colorful or Beiging?

Renee Jarecki

In August 2010, we Oblates and some Pro Sanctity members attended a retreat in Oceanside, California, with Msgr. Michael Curran from New York. Showing his humorous side, Fr. Michael gifted us with many beautiful reflections and points to ponder. One stood out from the rest: "Saints add color to the Church."

Msgr. Curran noted that our spiritual lives are threatened by a danger or a process that he called "beiging." When we see our spiritual life lacking fervor, we must restore excitement to it; that is, enrich its "color." With great emphasis, he suggested that we strive to be like the Saints who painted every aspect of their lives with the colors of holiness. We should bring such colors into the family, into the community, into our relationships, places of work, and in the Church! "We need to bring back to the Church," he said, "the colors of our gifts—the beauty and radiance we are called to provide." Such advice has already been applied to some of the activities which Pro Sanctity offers on a weekly or monthly basis.

For example:

Every Thursday (9:00 am-11:00 am) people gather together under the title "Holiness in Colors" at the Pro Sanctity Center for a journey of "spiritual formation."

They come to enliven or restore their spiritual colors that perhaps faded through the hustle and bustle of daily routine. They strive to stay spiritually energized through various dynamics facilitated by Renee Jarecki--videos, prayer, reflection on Pro Sanctity spirituality, fellowship, and even fun with movies and pot-lucks.

We all need to be watchful and see that our life does not turn beige but stays colorful in the Lord.

Adoration, too, can be a means to help us stay energized. This time of quiet is offered every Monday (3:00 pm to 4:30 pm), ending with Rosary, Vespers, and even a bowl of soup!

Retreats are also spiritually energizing! Make note of the following:

RETREAT FOR MEN: January 7-8, 2011 with Fr. Frank Jindra reflecting on the **SACRED HEART OF JESUS: FONT OF MERCY AND LOVE.** Fr. Frank describes this retreat in this way: "The Man Jesus has a heart for men and women. This message is needed in our world today. The Heart of Jesus speaks to all modern Christians who need the sure knowledge of being loved."

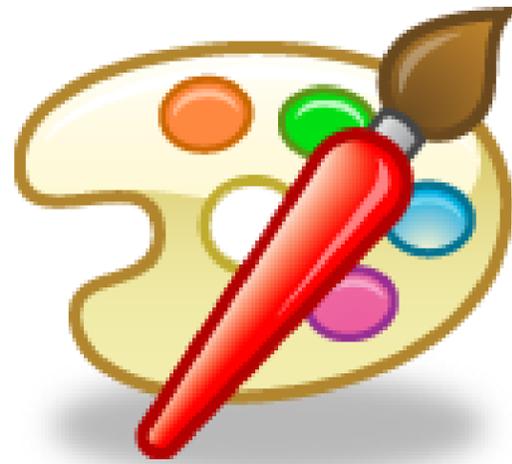
RETREAT FOR COUPLES: February 4-5, 2011 with Fr. Patrick Hill reflecting on **HUMAN LOVE AND DIVINE LOVE.**

RETREAT FOR WOMEN: February 18-20, 2011 with Fr. Gregory Marquiz.

All retreats will be held at the Pro Sanctity Center:

205 S. Pine Drive
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Don't be shy, let that "beige" go, and paint all aspects of your life with the "colors of holiness!"



Oblates Corner: Pro Sanctity on the Go!

Palmira Tafani

Movement!

Pro Sanctity is definitely a "movement"—not a static reality, but a movement that takes you everywhere, in every way! Pro Sanctity takes you along the path of personal holiness first, and then sends you across countries, cities, highways and byways to proclaim that holiness is for everyone—believe it or not! It takes you wherever you are needed to serve the "cause" of holiness through personal talents, capabilities, and even weaknesses!

The Founder, Servant of God, William Giaquinta, always stated that an Oblate is a woman of "polivalenza" (Ital.), which in English translates a woman of "multirole, resourceful, versatile, or multitiered;" capable of adapting not only to needs, but also to cultures, language, and more. Pro Sanctity is a Movement inspired by the Holy Spirit, who uses human instrumentality to bring about the awareness that every person has the potential to become a Saint. We have the potential through Bap-

tism to grow spiritually, like a seed that needs water and good soil to flourish!

Recently, Giovanna Piccioli, Agnes Rus, and Jessi Kary--to mention a few--were chosen by the Spirit to move across the United States, some even to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. Some Oblates were chosen to serve in Latvia, and some in the newest establishment, Holland, where bishops, priests, and laity welcomed the Movement with a special inauguration on September 15, 2010.

At Fullerton, California, we have been blessed with the return of Giovanna Piccioli from the Big Apple, where she spent the last 26 years! Giovanna is back with us, happily so, to serve the Movement through the Pro Sanctity Center here at Fullerton. She will be an asset to the local Pro Sanctity Apostolate.

Welcome, Giovanna, and *thank you* for your availability!

Seed of Faith (cont.)

Women, Nov./Dec. 2010, p.6.). It was the faith of those people that gave her the courage to continue her work among them. *Your* holiness, *your* greatness as disciples, lies hidden in a small seed of faith.

Have you ever been to Sequoia National Park and seen those massive, giant redwoods? The entire mass of a giant redwood tree lies hidden in one small seed. Can you imagine that? Just as heroic acts of faith lie within *you* if you just use your faith, if all of us would just use the faith we have, imagine what we can do! Do not be impatient to finish the journey; continue transforming the culture. Create in your home a holy family. Jesus Himself knew the darkness where faith must often reside. His cry from the cross was both shocking and consoling: "Father, why have you abandoned me?" Jesus knew what it was to look into the darkness and find nothing, to find no one there.

Continue to work in His name, raising your children with virtues even in the face of defiance, even in the



Redwood trees reaching toward heaven.

face of a secular culture. Continue to bring light to the world while surrounded by darkness. Even the smallest seed of faith will transform you to be a saint, to be holy as God is holy.