Vol. 3 - Iss. 2, Summer 2010

Good News

A Note From the Editor
Paula Carmody

Spring and Summer Greetings to all! When I hear the birds singing songs through my back window and see them flying and hopping about in the yard, I am reminded that we, too, are created by God and meant to be happy and to express this happiness through the works that we do and the attitudes that we have.

As a priest, I have done nothing to deserve the love of God: He, by a love that is constant and unbreakable, gives me the gift of a priestly life. These words of Jesus are an important reminder of what is at the heart of priestly life. The importance of His words is recognized in the following verse: "Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) and ... "he who trusts in the Lord is safe." (Proverbs 29:25) and "I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk, give you counsel and watch over you." (Psalm 32:8) and "Commit your way to the Lord; trust that God will act." (Psalm 37:5).

We will all miss Agnes Rus, and thank her for her many years of dedicated and conscientious service at the Pro Sanctity Center in Fullerton. We know that this bend in the road will take her to even greater heights in New York, and we send our love with her on her next adventure.

Priestly Love: A Repetition
Fr. Michael F. Murphy

As the "Year For Priests" draws to a close, we are grateful for the prayers and expressions of support from the people of God. Their love for their priests is a true blessing to the Church and a reminder of what we are called to as priests of Jesus Christ. These words of Jesus are an important reminder of what is at the heart of priestly life. In the span of six verses, Jesus says something to His Apostles, the first priests, that is central to the priesthood. The importance of His words is recognized in the fact that Jesus repeats Himself. He opens the teaching with "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) In the span of six verses, Jesus says something to His Apostles, the first priests, that is central to the priesthood. The importance of His words is recognized in the fact that Jesus repeats Himself. He opens the teaching with "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12). He then repeats the same message in verse 17: "This I command you: love one another." The purpose of this repetition is to make this point to His first priests: to love one another is central to discipleship, to priestly life, and ministry. The life-giving joy and love, which must be the mark of the priest, ‘in personae Christi in capite’ (‘in the person of Christ, the head’), depends upon me, a priest, repeating in my life, the same selfless love of Jesus. Jesus has changed the way God relates to us. We are no longer servants of God. We now enjoy an intimate friendship with God through the love of His Son, ‘I no longer call you slaves...I have called you friends, because I have told you every-thing I heard from my Father.” (John 15:15). As a priest, I have done nothing to de-

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Good News is published free with membership 2x / year, Winter and Summer, by the members of the Pro Sanctity Movement, West. The Good News encourages ideas and articles for publication. For more information, contact: Pro Sanctity Movement West, 205 South Pine Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833
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serve this new relationship, nor does it depend upon me.

Jesus said: “It is not you who chose me, but I who chose you to go and bear fruit” (John 15: 16). This new life that I enjoy is possible because of the love Jesus has for me. Because of my weaknesses and flaws, I deserve only the status of a slave. But Jesus has been the truest of friends, more than I have been to Him. My love, and the love of every priest, must be modeled on the love Jesus has for us. A love modeled on the love of Jesus is a love that initiates, rather than being expressed only after I have received love first. The love of a priest must be willing to accept rejection; it is a love that does not expect to be reciprocated; it is a love expressed to the point of death. A priestly love is willing to lay down its life for another, regardless of how difficult this is.

Like the Apostles, the priest is no longer the servant of Jesus; obedient because of duty or servitude. We are friends of Jesus, loving with the same freedom with which He loved; a pure and selfless love; a love willing to show joy and give thanks, to our Glorious Lord.

Our first agenda was to pause and share desires for the growth and development of the Pro Sanctity Movement, look at a Universal Pro Sanctity Website that would unite all our individual websites, discuss and update the Pro Sanctity Charter as we are working on international recognition. We paused and prayed through some of the areas where we need to grow and be more open to God’s graces. Finally, we set a course for the next year.

We have just started a wonderful new adventure in the life of the Pro Sanctity Movement. The mastermind was Loredana Reitano, who as many of you know, is our newly elected General Moderator of the Apostolic Oblates. This job gives her the position, along with her Council, to oversee the Movement in its faithfulness to its mission. She with her Council established an international Commission for Apostolate.

The first Apostolic Commission Meeting was beyond doubt exciting! We were 8 people representing Italy, India and the USA.

Loredana later wrote her reflection about the Pro Sanctity Apostolate Commission, of which she noted, “Commission” for the study of the Pro Sanctity Movement and its apostolate. They chose representatives from the Movement, Apostolic Oblates and experts in various related fields and asked us to gather in Rome, April 12-15, 2010. Members of the Pro Sanctity Movement in Latvia and Holland sent their thoughts, and hopefully can be present in the next meeting.

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Through the goodness of God Our world came to be, Exquisitely beautiful, Created for you and for me.

Then Our Heavenly Father Sent Jesus to Earth To show us His love With His Son's holy birth.

Jesus died for our sins And opened Heaven's gates, On Calvary’s hill For all sinners and saints.

He returned home to Heaven, But left us His love, And stays in our hearts always, With His Spirit, the Dove.

Let us praise Him forever. Let Him know He's adored, And show joy and give thanks, To our Glorious Lord.

Paula Carmody

Jesus, May your thoughts be my light and your words my guide.

May your eyes be upon me, and your ears hear my voice.

May your arms outstretched on the Cross open me to universal love.

Jesus, May your crucified feet move me to give myself tirelessly to my brothers and sisters.

May your pierced heart be a fount of grace for my journey, and my place of rest when I am weary.

+Bishop G. Giaquinta

For all who have passed their years, Let them have the joy of the blessed.

Jesus, May your thoughts be my light and your words my guide.

May your eyes be upon me, and your ears hear my voice.

May your arms outstretched on the Cross open me to universal love.

Jesus, May your crucified feet move me to give myself tirelessly to my brothers and sisters.

May your pierced heart be a fount of grace for my journey, and my place of rest when I am weary.

+Bishop G. Giaquinta
On May 12, 2010, I started off with 41 other Pilgrims to Eastern Europe (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Germany). God had great plans waiting for me as I flew from LAX to Eastern Europe. There would be many challenges that were inevitable, like the rain when we arrived in Warsaw, Poland. These show- ers continued for a few days, as would our tour, come rain or come shine. Even through the rain and walking, the Pilgrims assisted one another. There were times for humor in spite of all the challenges. Although the lives of all the Pilgrims differed, we were all one family and all had inspiring stories to share. Warsaw, Krakow and Prague are “walking cities”. The buses cannot get close to our tour sites, so it was walk and more walk. We were all prepared with good walking shoes and rain gear. It was great to be exposed to the different cultures, languages and beliefs... and FOOD. We were fortunate to have Fr. Joseph, our chaplain, from St. Bonaventure Parish in Huntington Beach, CA. We wor- shiped and celebrated mass at the various churches, cathedrals and shrines, plus daily Rosary on the bus and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 PM.

We all felt connected, especially at the shrine of St. Faustina in Kra- kow, Poland and at Pra- gue, the home of the Infant Jesus and all the historical and great churches of Eastern Europe. Our faith was bolstered and we were all in God’s holy pres- ence and His presence was in us. To be able to pray together and see and feel the presence of God at the Shrine of St. Faustina during our Mass and at the Di- vine Mercy Church will always remain in my memory.

We went to the site of the Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau (death camp) and saw the horrific and tragic aspects of the history of Auschwitz. When Poland came under German occupation during World War II, the Germans changed the name of the city of Oswiecim to Auschwitz, and this, also, became the name of the camp. Pilgrims were imprisoned in the camp and died there, as well as Soviet prisoners of war, gypsies and prisoners of other nationalities. An estimated 1,000,000 Jews were sent to this one camp of many camps, from Nazi occupied Europe. We then vis- ited the Auschwitz Birkenau Museum to really see the chilling reminder of the Holocaust. After this very chilling experi- ence, we were off to Pope John Paul II’s birthplace to see his life in pictures and articles, and the vest- ments he wore as a priest, Bishop and Pope. In Krakow, we were blessed to visit the Monastery of Jasna Gora and the Black Madonna icon. Our Lady of Czestochowa, for over six centuries has been attracting pilgrims from around the world. This is considered Po- land’s greatest religious Shrine.

In Budapest we were treated to a dressy night out to cruise the Danube River - good food and good company. Buda occupies the west side of the Danube. It was a cold day when we went to the 13th century Matthias Coronation Church and celebrated mass there. Heroes’ Square was also on the agenda for the day. It was a long bus ride from Budapest to Prague. Our cameras kept on clicking as we drove by the beautiful sceneries.

Prague is considered as one of Europe’s most at- tractive capitals. But a walking city at that with lots of walking through the very picturesque narrow streets full of tourists from all over the world. We celebrated mass at our Lady of Victorious Church, the house of the home of the Infant Jesus. To be able to pray at the altar of the Infant Jesus, since I am a devotee to the Infant Jesus, is indescrib- able. At our mass celebrated by Fr. Joseph, I was so hon- oured to lead the Readings for the day to a full church, our group and other Pilgrims and tourists.

The Castle and the majestic St Vitus Cathedral, was our next visit. We were able to see the Astronomical Clock, once the envy of all Europe. We had time to do some serious shopping at the huge market place and then mix with the locals in Wenceslaus Square.

We had to leave Prague, one of my favorite cities of the tour, and head on to our final destination, Oberammerg- au, Germany. Prague was very tiring and most of the pilgrims slept on our way from Prague on the two hour journey to the German border. All were awake to see and take pictures from the bus of the Bavarian Alps and the beautiful landscapes. We reached Oberammergau in the afternoon and did some sightseeing with a thousand other Pilgrims. Oberammergau, a Bavarian village, has a small population of about 5,000 inhabitants, but is very pictur- esque and mostly Catholic. It is famous for its tour- ism. The houses are covered with paintings painted on the walls of homes with pictures from Scripture or biblical

The Apostle Peter writes in his first Letter: “In this you re- joice, although now for a while you may have to suffer grief as you did before, since you have now been Acknowledged through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than the gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Pt 1:6-7). He was writing to Chris- tians who were suffering many persecutions and trials within the society in which they lived. He encouraged them to be both strong in their faith and to conduct them- selves as children of God, in every circumstance, and to participate in the holiness of God. He writes: “Like obedi- ent children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance but, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every respect of your conduct. it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’.” (1 Pt 1:14-6) These words from Peter resonate with us espe- cially at this time in which we feel emotionally involved with the scandals of pedophilia within the Church caused by some priests. We also see how accusations are escalating against the Holy Father, how he has become the target of daily attacks, the easy prey of planned attacks, espe- cially during this year of the priest, attacks that aim at de- stabilizing the person of Benedict XVI, as well as the credibility of the Church.

As committed Christians, we often have to an- swer the many questions and accusations that our brothers and sisters are directing toward us in the various environ- ments in which we live, work, or are present. Also, we often feel powerless or inadequate when confronted with harsh judgments from people who refuse to accept our explanations. These are generalized judgments regarding the scandals—they are directed to the entire Church. Peo- ple generalize and are relentless in their judgment, thus forgetting or underestimating the good and beautiful things in the Church, including the integrity, dignity, and dedication of many priests.

All becomes even more heartbreaking for us as we cannot deny that certain sins are real in the Church, and create in us not only pain, but also disgust. Moreover, it is heartbreaking to observe the immense weight in us, as faithful who—suffered in their faith—do not know how to distinguish or separate the sin of men from faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ. In the same manner, we see an in- creasing number of priests who—though truly in love with their ministry and dedicated to the service of their brothers and sisters—feel at lowest ebb, powerless to fight against the evil that is being obstruc- ted and allowed to raise its ugly head in the Church. In fact, the Church is the bride of Christ, who is seen as the Bridegroom, the one who is to bring the Bride to the wedding feast. But in this wedding, she is brought to her execution by the very people who are supposed to love her and protect her. The Church is the one who suffers most from this, and yet she continues to love and suffer for the sake of her children and their salvation.

The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, and as such, she is united to Christ and shares in his sufferings. The Church is the Bride of Christ, and as such, she is united to Christ and shares in his sufferings. The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, and as such, she is united to Christ and shares in his sufferings.

As committed Pro Sanctity members, we know that—by the specific call from God—holiness springs from Christ’s “Sufferth,” Christ’s “Thrust,” and from the offering of His Blood, and is made present in the gift of the Eucharist, which Jesus left us, we all be- come one body and sharers with one another. This Body, PRO SANCTITY MEMBERS: KEEPING OUR HEARTS IN THE RIGHT PLACE IN AND FOR THE CHURCH by Loredana Reitano, International President of the Pro Sanctity Movement and the General Moderator of the Apostolic Oblates.
present in history through the Church, is Christ’s Body; it is both a human and divine body, earthly and heavenly at the same time, formed by the communion of Saints—those in Heaven and those still on the journey. The sin, affecting the Church at this time, creates a deep wound in this body, a sore that needs to be healed. The entire Church is suffering! He brought this suffering to the Cross, and showed His glorious wounds to the Father! As it happens in every good family, this wound needs to be healed. But in order to heal it, it is necessary to apply the oil of love, the fragrance of prayer, and the myrrh of sacrifice.

My dearest, let us answer in this way to this historical moment, aware of the participation in the Redemption demanded of us, and united in our common vocation to holiness.

“FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE…”
By Palmira Tafani

This seems to be the “motto” of people who enter the marriage commitment—people who enter the marriage vows, promising to remain faithful to each other, no matter what. As I was reflecting on my own “commitment”, and the 50 years of “profession of vows” that I was preparing to celebrate as an Apostolic Oblate, I came to the conclusion that the motto “for better or for worse” is a motto applicable not only to any serious commitment, but also to any healthy, loyal, and significant human relationship or any “promise” a heart intends to establish. This motto jumped at me, as it were, when I was asked, “How did you make it 50 years in your vocation?” How did I make it 50 years? I made it primarily because the Lord wanted me in this vocation. Please, don’t get me wrong. I did have many options in my life, especially in the middle of Roman “glamour”, as I was working, temporarily, as a receptionist for one of the famous fashion designers. It was exactly in the middle of the “glamour” that the Lord’s whisper was able to break through the noise and get my attention! That whisper expressed His glorious wounds to the Father! As it happens in every good family, this wound needs to be healed. But in order to heal it, it is necessary to apply the oil of love, the fragrance of prayer, and the myrrh of sacrifice.

May God continue to bless her and her new venture.

Finally, let us remain true and faithful sons and daughters of our Founder, who taught us to love the Church, to treasure the gift of priesthood, and to “Sentire cum Petro”—to “Be of one mind and one heart with Peter.” It is exactly this hour that makes us understand more deeply our call as lay people, commissioned to safeguard the unity of the Church in all its parts, and to value the different calls to sanctify ourselves, in order to sanctify...

A TIME TO GRIEVE BUT NOT TO MOURN
by Andrew Clay, Director Pro Sanctity Board

It is with sadness and regret that we announce the transfer of Agnes Rus to the Pro Sanctity Center in Brooklyn, New York this coming August of 2010.

Agnes has been with our Fullerton Center for over 16 years and will leave a void in its organization and spiritual leadership. Those who have been blessed by a personal relationship with Agnes will miss her practicality, common sense, charm and sense of humor.

Leaving Slovenia as a child, in order to escape the Communist regime, she spent the next 12 years in Italy and then moved to New York and Omaha, Nebraska and finally to the Fullerton Pro Sanctity Center. The call of service for Agnes as an Apostolic Oblate is to go where needed.

We wish her well and are thankful that we have had the privilege to work with a director/mentor so capable and caring.

NEW LEADER APPOINTED
With pride we announce the appointment of Apostolic Oblate Renee Jarecki as the incoming Mentor/Director of the Fullerton Pro Sanctity Center.

Renee is no stranger to our center coming here from the Institute in Nebraska in 1990. Renee is a “hands on” leader possessing many skills and attributes needed for this assignment.

She will continue to be well aided by Palmira Tafani who just celebrated her 50th anniversary as an Apostolic Oblate. They will be joined in September by Giovanna Piccioli.

God has gifted us with the talents and treasures of these three “Saints In The Making.”

Andrew Clay, Director Pro Sanctity Board