

YEAR OF FAITH

Newsletter -no 3



Enter the Year of Faith no. 3

The “door of faith” (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church.

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR OF FAITH

To profess faith in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is to believe in one God who is Love (cf. 1 Jn 4:8): the Father, who in the fullness of time sent his Son for our salvation; Jesus Christ, who in the mystery of his death and resurrection redeemed the world; the Holy Spirit, who leads the Church across the centuries as we await the Lord’s glorious return
(The Door of Faith#1)



To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (cf. Rom 6:4), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life, fruit of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, whose will it was, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, to draw those who believe in him into his own glory (cf. Jn 17:22).

(The Door of Faith#1).

HOW TO USE BULLETIN - no. 3

This bulletin takes quotations from the letter, “The Door of Faith,” that introduced the Year of Faith for the worldwide Church. It invites you to take each quotation, reflect on it and apply it to your own life and the life of your parish community.

Use your pen to write down your thoughts and the phrases that catch your attention. Work over these reflections.

Each quotation helps us to understand and live our faith in Jesus Christ.

Pray over these quotations and your own questions.

Listen carefully.



A profound crisis of faith has affected many people.

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The renewal of the Church is also achieved through the witness offered by the lives of believers: by their very existence in the world, Christians are called to radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.

It is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize.



The Year of Faith is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world.

(The Door of Faith #6)

The Council itself, in the Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium, said this: While “Christ, ‘holy, innocent and undefiled’ (Heb 7:26) knew nothing of sin (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), but came only to expiate the sins of the people (cf. Heb 2:17)... the Church ... clasping sinners to its bosom, at once holy and always in need of purification, follows constantly the path of penance and renewal. (*The Door of Faith#6*)

FAITH IS.....

Today as in the past, he sends us through the highways of the world to proclaim his Gospel to all the peoples of the earth (cf. Mt 28:19).

Through his love, Jesus Christ attracts to himself the people of every generation: in every age he convokes the Church, entrusting her with the proclamation of the Gospel by a mandate that is ever new.

(The Door of Faith #7)

Only through believing, then, does faith grow and become stronger; there is no other possibility for possessing certitude with regard to one's life apart from self-abandonment, in a continuous crescendo, into the hands of a love that seems to grow constantly because it has its origin in God. *(The Door of Faith #7)*



Today too, there is a need for stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelization in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith. *(The Door of Faith #7)*

It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. *(The Door of Faith #7)*

We want to celebrate this Year in a worthy and fruitful manner.

Reflection on the faith will have to be intensified, so as to help all believers in Christ to acquire a more conscious and vigorous adherence to the Gospel, especially at a time of profound change such as humanity is currently experiencing.



How do these teachings on faith apply to your life?

Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful, because it expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness: indeed, it opens the hearts and minds of those who listen to respond to the Lord's invitation to adhere to his word and become his disciples

(The Door of Faith #7)

OUR FAITH GROWS THROUGH MIS-STEPS AND MISTAKES

No one would want to be parents who bubble wrap their children, that is, parents who are so super protective to make sure that their child will never get hurt or have to deal with the other obnoxious children. How could you ever learn to stand on your own feet as a seven year old? And as a seventeen year old?

Children (and adults) need to make mis-steps to grow and mature. It is through our mistakes that we develop and grow into mature adults. So too with our faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith does not just happen. We have to live and walk with (or away from) Jesus Christ. There will be times when we are like Peter, the apostle, who refused to accept the cross that Jesus had predicted would happen. Peter is chastised by Jesus: "Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you set your mind not on divine things but on human things." (Mt. 16, 23)

We know that Jesus gave his very human and weak followers a brave new task. They were sent with all their limitations to be the herald and good news of Jesus Christ.

As you reflect on your own life of faith, ask where you have made mistakes? Drifted away from following the Gospel of Jesus? Or have there been periods in your life where you rejected Jesus in your heart?

Now, also reflect on how the Holy Spirit has lead you back to Jesus. Where did you turn from not walking with Jesus to giving Jesus your best effort?

PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

From Charles de Foucauld

Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures.
I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul;
I offer it to you
with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord,
and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.

