

YEAR OF FAITH

Newsletter -no 6



Enter the Year of Faith no.6

Only through believing, then, does faith grow and become stronger *(Door of Faith # 7)*

HOW TO USE BULLETIN - no. 6

Many women are hurt when you look at their wonderful collection of fine china displayed in these very expensive cabinets. It is an expensive collection but you make the correct observation: "This will look so good in a garage sale after you have moved into the care home!"

Why would you want to have fine china if you do not use it?

If your religious faith is not used it is so much clutter to your life.

The Year of Faith leads us to reflect on how we are living our faith. What impact does it have on the way we do our business? How are we experiencing transformation in our attitudes and feelings towards God and others?



IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU LOSE IT

1. Faith is in the daily living

For many years the people who work with and care for the elderly will say clearly: You may wonder why your hand writing is so shaky, but it you don't write anything you begin to lose that skill!"

When people withdraw from their friends and acquaintances they soon discover that no one comes around anymore.

It is the same with the gift of faith. If we do not use it we will lose it.

This bulletin wants to explore the ways in which we can live our faith in creative and joy-filled ways.

When the seed is planted in the garden the gardener has clear plans that the seed will sprout, grow and bear a harvest of corn on the cob. The gardener plants the seeds in the ground but has great plans that her family will all enjoy the wonderful feed of corn in late August.

And God has great plans for you when the seed of faith is planted in your heart.

Only through believing, then, does faith grow and become stronger

2. Faith is transformative

It is very common to hear grandchildren make comments at the funeral of one of their grandparents. They will say, "Now, our Grandma became a much more patient and understanding person through her long years of being married to Grandpa. He was so patient and he rubbed a lot of the rough edges off this very determined and impatient woman." Simply put, it makes a great difference who you live with!

When you live with the Son of God you are walking with the mercy and the goodness of God. If we sincerely practice the Gospel we will be changed. We are meant to become like Jesus in all things. Should anyone be surprised to discover that very prayerful people are also generous people?



Believers strengthen themselves by believing” (The Door of Faith # 7)

Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy.
(The Door of Faith # 7)



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

(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. (cf. 1 Cor 11:26).

(The Door of Faith # 7)

FAITH MAKES A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE TO LIFE

FOUR WAYS TO MAKE FAITH REAL

It [faith] 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.

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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. In rediscovering his love day by day, the missionary commitment of believers attains force and vigour that can never fade away.

Door of Faith # 7

3. Faith has a real face

People share the observation like the one that comes often. "I have a hard time putting it into words but you can sense that in his life he is living by the Spirit of God.

"He feels bad when he unfairly criticizes the weaknesses of others. He chooses to be patient with those who in their old age move so slowly. There is an attentiveness to the things of God in his eyes."

We may have a difficult time putting it into words but a lived faith always shines through in our daily life.

Jesus chooses his followers to live and imitate him. As he was sent to the world to bring everyone to God and God's ways, so now the believers are meant to be a living extension of the person, the love and the spirit of Jesus.

The Bible (The Word of God) is not first written on a printed page. It is written in the actions and attitudes of the followers of Jesus.

This is where the Year of Faith asks the Church to reflect on its living. How is the goodness of Jesus Christ made present in our actions?

How much is our face the very face of Jesus Christ?

1. Share your prayer with your family members and your friends. There may be many times when you could invite those close to you to join you in prayer of thanksgiving, prayer for the sickness of your friends or prayer to help you make sense out of this very difficult situation.

2. Simply find time to visit one of the shut-ins who live close to you. It may be as simple as giving them a call and saying, "Put the coffee on I'm coming over!" The little time that you spend may be a powerful moment where God was present to the lonely person.

3. Do good that no one else will ever see or remember. Do the good that only God will see. It may be a donation to the Food Bank. It may be helping a new Canadian get on the right bus to connect with a doctor's appointment.

4. Share the Sunday Eucharist every Sunday. This is the actual sharing in the great sacrifice of Jesus. Bring every part of your life, its ups and its downs, to the sacrifice of Jesus. Join every part of your life in your sacrifice of service to and with Jesus Christ.

Live your faith in worship and praise this very Sunday.

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) Door of Faith

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These are the ways my parish is sharing our faith with others (non-believers, inactive people and people who have been hurt through their lives).

4. Faith is always a shared faith

Jesus spoke about the pearl of great price. We do not want to keep it to ourselves. A private faith is never the Christian faith. It may be spiritual but it is not of the Christian variety.

Share with your close friends and family members how Jesus has blessed and supported your life. There are many inactive people from all sorts of churches who are hungry to hear how the Spirit of Jesus moves within your life.

Go - give your faith away to the hungry and the lost.

Who were the people who shared their faith with you and helped you to draw closer to Christ?

PRAYER TO MAKE MY FAITH REAL

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.



How have the people of your parish helped you in your life of faith?