

# YEAR OF FAITH

*Newsletter -no 7*



Enter the Year of Faith no. 7

We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope.

*HOW TO USE BULLETIN No. 7*

*There is a warm gentleman in town who spoke out one question about his wife of forty-six years. "I love that woman but why would she want to have sixty-seven coffee mugs in her cupboards?" He shook his head. Obviously, he could not understand this either.*

*Why would the people of the Church want to hide Jesus and his Good News in their church buildings? Why would they privatize their religion?*

*Use this bulletin to reflect and share with a fellow parishioner how you share your faith with those who are searching for God? with those who have drifted away from the practice of the faith? and those who just do not know anything about Jesus Christ?*



**GIVE YOUR FAITH AWAY....FREELY**

***1. Nothing teaches the faith like trying to share it with others***

Cy smiled when he related the wonderful story of his Grandmother who could not read and write English. She learnt with her youngest child. As he would read to her (she learnt to read English) and as he did his written work (she learned to write English). In all her efforts to make sure her youngest succeeded in school, she accidentally learnt English.

Exactly the same dynamic happens with our faith. When we try to share it our faith takes deeper root within ourselves.

The Year of Faith is a summons to the people of the Church to recognize where they have privatized and hidden our faith. This must never be the lamp that we hide under the bed.

This is the season to recover our desire to give others that part of our life which is so rich. This is the time to share the Gospel that Jesus has given us.

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

## 2. Sharing our faith challenges us to grow in our life as disciples of Jesus.

People want to be afraid of others who are struggling with their imperfections and failures. It is too close to home because the struggles of others pushes nerves in our life that I may not want to deal with today.

Jesus called such imperfect people. They have such bad attitudes. They can say such terrible things about others. And worst of all, they sin and disobey God!

But these are the only people that God can bring to holiness. Good people do not need God! People who struggle with their terrible attitudes and selfish thoughts turn to Jesus Christ for new life. The blackness within their lives calls the Christ.



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

*We will have the opportunity to profess our faith in the Risen Lord in our cathedrals and in the churches of the whole world; in our homes and among our families, so that everyone may feel a strong need to know better and to transmit to future generations the faith of all times.*

*(The Door of Faith #8)*



*We make it our prayer that believers’ witness of life may grow in credibility*  
(The Door of Faith #9)

*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.*

*(The Door of Faith # 8)*

**IF FAITH HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR LIFE IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.**

*At the same time, we make it our prayer that believers' witness of life may grow in credibility.*

*Door of Faith # 9*

*To rediscover the content of the faith that is professed, celebrated, lived and prayed, and to reflect on the act of faith, is a task that every believer must make his own, especially in the course of this Year.*

*Door of Faith # 9*

*Write down the three things that you have discovered about your faith in the past few months.*

### **3. The Parish Community sets the tone.**

“Don’t talk to me about setting the tone to life. I grew up with a Mother who felt very strongly about how her six boys should act.. at home and in public. She never put it into words but we could read from her emotions, her face and just the way she would look at you how she felt about what we had done successfully or what we had pulled off.” Don paused for one moment. “With six boys close together in age we always seemed to be pulling something off that did not meet her approval.”

If your parish is energetic about sharing the faith then you will pick it up in their faces. If your parish is dragging its feet, then you will walk much slower when it comes to speaking about the Gospel of Jesus.

The Year of Faith spurs our parish communities to examine how energetic they are about speaking and sharing their faith with others. What is the tone of your parish?

How much effort do they put into reaching out to the inactive Catholic or to the many young adults who have not grown up in a family where there was any religion practiced?

## **GROW YOUR PARISH INTO A FAITH SHARING COMMUNITY**

1. Find one parish friend with whom you can discuss your faith and your efforts to give the faith to others.

2. Gently ask the person sitting next to you on Sunday what they are getting out of their religion. And then ask them how they want to share it with others.

3. Join a small group that wants to pray together, study the Scriptures together and is looking for ways to share the faith with others.

4. Each Sunday ask how the particular readings that are shared at the Sunday Mass move us to share our faith with the world.

Where does the Word of God that we have just heard this Sunday move us to give Christ to our fellow workers? the friends we visit in the hospital? the friends we coffee with once a week?



*We will have the opportunity to profess our faith in the Risen Lord....so that everyone may feel a strong need to know better and to transmit to future generations the faith of all times.* Door of Faith # 8

*Who are the people that you know who have given their life to Jesus Christ?*

#### 4. Rediscover your faith

Thank goodness we have been directed away from thinking that people actually have the fullness of faith just because they grew up in a religion.

Each person must discover their faith ever anew. Trusting in God's goodness when you are twenty-three and just starting out in your career and trusting in God when you are eighty four and your memory is fading (and you are very conscious of diminishment) is a different place to stand in our life of faith.

Rediscover your faith wherever you are on the path of faith.

*In those periods of life where you drifted from following the Christian way, what brought you back to the path that Jesus walks on? How did you come to the Church community?*

#### A FAMILY PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH

O God our Father,  
in Jesus you call all Christian families and  
homes  
to be signs of living faith.  
By the light of the Holy Spirit,  
lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith,  
and by that gift  
may we grow in our relationship with Jesus,  
your Son,  
and be confident witnesses to Christian  
hope and joy  
to all we meet.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



*How are you a source of strength and encouragement to the life of your parish?*