

YEAR OF FAITH

Newsletter -no 8



Enter the Year of Faith no. 8

Through faith, we can recognize the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love.

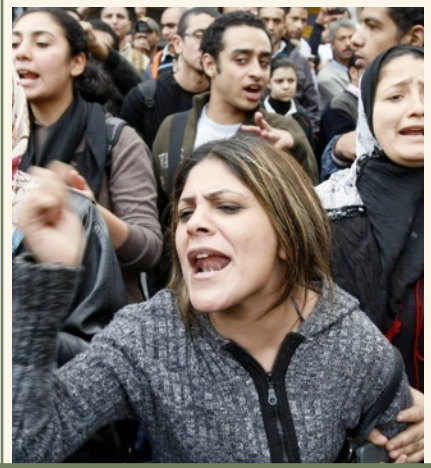
HOW TO USE BULLETIN No. 8

What you see depends where you stand! If you stand within the circle of your own ego and work only for yourself you will miss everyone else!

If you hold on to your pain and sufferings, to your own sinfulness, you will see other human beings struggling to thrive in life just as you are.

When you stand in the circle of Jesus Christ you will see what Jesus sees. To stand with Jesus means to hear what Jesus hears.

The reflections that the Year of Faith calls us to make are to examine what we see in this world as individual believers and as the community of Church.



FAITH BRINGS YOU TO SEE REALITY AS IT IS

Do the eyebrows ever lift when you teach that Jesus was working hard to get rid of a religion that did all the right things, followed all the rules correctly, but did not work hard to live into the righteousness which is God.

To believe means to walk on the same path that Jesus walked on. It means to see the human condition just as Jesus saw the human condition. In the life and teachings of Jesus he reached out to the outcasts and the suffering in his

own society. Many of his followers took offense that he considered the tax collectors (i.e., the traitors and scoundrels of that society) of great importance. Our faith leads us to look at the world through the eyes of Jesus and to be touched by the people that touched his spirit and his sense of compassion.

Where do you see other people with the eyes of Jesus?

Supported by faith, let us look with hope at our commitment in the world, as we await “new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet 3:13; cf. Rev 21:1).

Henry never let his seventy-five years interfere with asking questions about the things he did not know. “What does this word impel mean when we speak of Christ?”

Impel means to push forward, to move and become involved.

When the love of Jesus Christ, his great sense of goodness for all human beings, is moving within us we are moved from inside to do what he did.

It means looking at the hungry within our own province. It means becoming involved to help alleviate the difficulties of hungry children.

Being impelled means being moved from our position of comfort and going to visit a co-worker who is struggling with her cancer treatment.



“As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40. These words are a warning that must not be forgotten and a perennial invitation to return the love by which he takes care of us.”



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)

....It is faith that enables us to recognize Christ and it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbour along the journey of life. *(The Door of Faith#14)*

FAITH IS.....

Faith is.....Looking to see in the face of everyone we have to deal with today the very face of Christ.

This is a moment of revelation of God. This person, with all their wrinkles of old age, is the very image of God.

Faith lifts our consciousness to see beneath appearances and to see and treasure what God sees in this grandfather with all his decades.

Faith is.....Adjusting our busy schedule to have time for the single father who needs to spend some intense time with his legal advisor. It means having time to look after his two small children as he takes care of the necessary tasks of trying to make his little family work and thrive.



Faith is.....Praying daily for your nephew who is heavy into the drug scene and has lost his last three jobs. This young man is careening for disaster. He will not listen to anyone. You beat the door of heaven for a miracle in this young man's life.

Faith is... helping the new Canadians find their ways around the legalities of Canadian life. It means helping them relocate and finding some furniture for their place.



It is faith that enables us to recognize Christ and it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbour along the journey of life.

The Door of Faith # 14

How do you experience the effects of faith in Jesus Christ in 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)

Faith without charity bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt.

(The Door of Faith # 14)

1. Faith makes us sisters and brothers

Every last child in a large family will relate the same memory. ‘At home the older brothers would give you a rough time but at school, look out if any other kid pushed you around. They were so protective of you around all the others kids’ Blood is thicker than water!

And the blood of Christ makes us all sisters and brothers. When we drink of the Eucharistic cup we drink of the love that Jesus brings to everyone in the world.

As we reflect on our reality in Christ we are challenged to keep our focus on God the Father. We have been made sisters and brothers in Christ.

If the other is our family, our sister, our brother, how ought we to treat them? How are we to value their lives?

This is where our faith leads us to treat one another as our own sisters and brothers.

Charity, respect and compassion towards the other is faith put into action. It is faith lived through our hands, our voice and our heart.

The words from the letter of St. James challenges us. There can be no faith if there is not a deep care for the brother and sister. Words of prayer are empty if they are not accompanied by definite actions of care and concern.

As we believe, so may our sister and brother live!

Where have you been a sister or a brother to the other today?

PRAYER FOR A CHANGE

Torn shirt, no shoes,
My brother.
Hungry, he touches my heart
and I ache to understand, to see,
to feel, to reach,
to share his life,
his laugh, his dance.
I even drink the coffee that he grows,
And smell the flowers he picks,
My brother.
Lord,
May his hunger change my heart

