

YEAR OF FAITH

Newsletter -no 10



Enter the Year of Faith no. 10

It is the lifelong companion that makes it possible to perceive, ever anew, the marvels that God works for us. *(The Door of Faith # 15)*

HOW TO USE BULLETIN No. 10

Modern life cheats our children from the richness of growing up very close to your parents. In a world where mother and father worked very close to the land a child would have been five years old and would be out hoeing the potatoes with their parent. Mind you, a child may not have been all that cooperative hoeing potatoes but they were hand in hand with the parent.

And what were parents doing: they were teaching their children in season and out of season. A child is learning so much when you are doing something else, like hoeing potatoes on a hot July morning!

It was in the living that you were educated. Examine how you have learnt your faith.

WORK YOU FAITH ... LET IS GROW STRONG!

1. Faith needs a workout

It is not uncommon to have a sixty year old person suffer a heart attack, get involved in the rehabilitation program and make the observation, "You know I am sixty five years old and I am in better shape than I was a fifty years of age. Previously I just lead a sedentary life. Now I am active and feel so much better!"

The same with our life of faith. If you do not use it you will lose it contrary to all the protests that people make.

It is not accidental that the wise spiritual masters of the past called prayer and spiritual activity "spiritual exercises." Faith must take shape in our daily prayer, in the Sunday Eucharist and in our service to the poor of this world.

If we do not use the gift that has been given to us it will shrivel up and become as useful to our life as all the unused stuff we have stacked away on the shelves in our garage.

The Year of Faith is moving the church people to use their faith.



Faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world. *(The Door of Faith # 15)*

2. Faith always needs to be unpacked.

If you expect nothing to happen in life, then guess what? Nothing will happen! It will be a blank screen with nothing happening!

The destructive part of so many people making their faith and religion so private is that they expect nothing to happen.

This Year of Faith wants to stimulate the people of the Church to be alert to the ways that God is moving among us today. Where are we touched and shaped by the Holy Spirit? Where does the Holy Spirit challenge us to these new moments where God is breaking through our darkness?

Be quiet for a few moments. Where is God revealing God's life and goodness to you today? Where is God touchable within your own life?



“May this Year of Faith make our relationship with Christ the Lord increasingly firm” *(The Door of Faith # 15)*

The trials of life, while helping us to understand the mystery of the Cross and to participate in the sufferings of Christ (cf. Col1:24), are a prelude to the joy and hope to which faith leads: “when I am weak, then I am strong”

2 Cor 12:10

(The Door of Faith #15)



We make it our prayer that believers' witness of life may grow in credibility

(The Door of Faith #9)

What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end.

(The Door of Faith # 15)

THIS INVITATION [IS] DIRECTED TO EACH OF US, THAT NONE OF US GROW LAZY IN THE FAITH.

(The Door of Faith # 15)

Intent on gathering the signs of the times in the present of history, faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world.

Door of Faith # 15

What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end.

Door of Faith # 15

Write down the three moments you experienced Jesus in your daily life.

3. The Year of Faith wants to make our relationship with Jesus Christ firm.

When was the last time you were stuck in the airport waiting for your flight to go home? You had a three and a half hour wait?

Why did every moment take so long? Why was it so boring? Why were these three and a half hours so empty?

Life without friendship and participation in Jesus Christ makes us to be sitting in the airport with nothing to do.

Discover who you are in Jesus Christ.

The Year of Faith wants to stimulate us to become alive in our faith.

Faith is dynamic. It is very invigorating. "Faith commits every one of us to become a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world." (# 15)

Great and wonderful things are meant to happen in the life of the disciples (that is, us!).

Be the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to those who are struggling to do what is right with God.

Be the hands of healing to those who are walking a very tough road in their lives.

BECOME A LIVING SIGN OF THE RISEN CHRIST IN THE WORLD



1. Allow your daily prayer to reclaim you as a disciple of Jesus. May your prayer keep you conscious that you are the living extension of Jesus Christ.

2. Read, pray and study the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Place yourself in the events and the arguments that Jesus went through. Ask the healing hand of Jesus to also touch your own life.

What is happening in your life when you draw close to Jesus Christ?

3. Each Sunday take the Sunday readings and apply them to your own life.

What new insights does the Word of God bring your life?

What is Jesus saying to your parish community?

We believe with firm certitude that the Lord Jesus has conquered evil and death. With this sure confidence we entrust ourselves to him: he, present in our midst, overcomes the power of the evil one (cf. Lk II:20); and the Church, the visible community of his mercy, abides in him as a sign of definitive reconciliation with the Father. (#15)

4. Rediscover your identity

Catholics who do not take part in the life of the Church and receive wholesome teaching are shocked to discover that ‘this is not the same religion I thought I had!’

The Church is being re-invigorated by the Scriptures. We have been joined through the waters of Baptism into the very mission and person of Jesus Christ. We have been designated to be the living extension of the Incarnation of Jesus.

Be the sign of the living presence of the Risen Christ when you sing together at the Sunday Eucharist and in our prayer together. Be the living presence of the Risen Christ when you are present at the hospital bed of your family member.

How will you “entrust this time of grace to the Mother of God, proclaimed “blessed because she believed” (Lk 1:45)? (The Door of Faith # 15)

A FINAL RAY OF LIGHT FOR YOUR FAITH

The words of Saint Peter shed one final ray of light on faith: “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials,

so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls” (1 Pet 1:6-9).



How is your life better because you walk with Jesus, the very Son of God, alive among us today?