

YEAR OF FAITH

Newsletter -no 11



Enter the Year of Faith no. 11

During this time we will need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the “pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Heb 12:2): *(The Door of Faith # 13)*

FAITH IS LIVED IN THE MESS OF LIFE

People do not speak it out loud but one of the greatest hindrances to believing in God is the weak witness of those who claim to be baptized Christians. They use the double standards they see in the life of believers to refuse to go any further on the road to faith.

But this is point where the mystery of Christ hits the pavement. God has come into our human weakness with all its failures and weakness. God did not avoid the mess of humanity

who have made wars on one another, who cheat the little money widows have to live on and who abuse and neglect children.

The Good News that Christ brings us is that the human heart can change into greater goodness. We can move from being centered on ourselves to helping the sister and brother to thrive in their own lives.

Faith is walking with Christ through the mess of humanity.

HOW TO USE BULLETIN No. 11

Many, many people will observe ‘I love Jesus but I find his people another story!’

Christians are not perfect people. They suffer their own weaknesses. They can be mean and vindictive, selfish and dishonest!

A sincere believer is the woman or man who can be honest with their own sinfulness and failures. But at the same time they believe and are open to the workings of the Holy Spirit within their lives.

This is about the transformation of our selfish egos into the generosity and compassion of Jesus Christ.

In our weaknesses is the the working of God’s Spirit.



The joy of love, the answer to the drama of suffering and pain, the power of forgiveness in the face of an offense received and the victory of life over the emptiness of death: all this finds fulfillment in the **mystery of his Incarnation** (The Door of Faith # 13)

Our Christianity does not allow us to sit by the side of the road and complain. If there is evil and darkness then we have been sent by God to bring forth light and goodness.

The mature approach of our faith challenges us to make things better. There is an old adage that pictures it much better. “Better to light one candle than to ever curse the darkness.”

If you have a brother-in-law who is a not-so-discrete racist, then show him the goodness and value you experience in the people who are different.

If your co-worker has a nasty tongue, try to find two good things to say about the people she criticizes. The power of God’s love is the answer to the sin around us.



In him who died and rose again for our salvation, the examples of faith that have marked these two thousand years of our salvation history are brought into the fullness of light. (The Door of Faith # 13)



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)

in Christ “all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfillment” .(The Door of Faith#13)

WALK WITH MARY IN FAITH.....

Mary is the prime mentor of a life of faith. She stands as the little one of God who believes and trusts in God in the most impossible of situations.

Always hold Mary close to your own faith and to the struggles you encounter as you try to live faithful to God in all things.

The young Mary accepted the call of God to be Mother. (Lk. 1,38) She had so little to go on but her conviction that God was with her and would bring all things to fulfillment.

She visited her cousin Elizabeth and praised God for all the marvelous works that happened to the people who trusted in God. (Lk. 1, 46-55)

With the same faith she was with Jesus in the horrible death on the cross ((Jn. 19, 25-27).

She was there with Jesus and the great unfolding of God's wondrous works.



Now in your life hold the experiences of Mary within the boundaries of your ups and downs.

When the unexpected happens and you can see nothing but confusion in the future, stand with the young Mary and ask for the courage to believe and trust in all things.

When disaster strikes your family and you feel that you will fall apart and collapse as a family, as Mary to give you courage as she was given courage at the foot of the cross.

Let the faith of Mary speak to your heart.



In him who died and rose again for our salvation, the examples of faith that have marked these two thousand years of our salvation history are brought into the fullness of light.

The Door of Faith # 13

These are the three things that make it very difficult for me to believe and trust in God.

The joy of love, the answer to the drama of suffering and pain, the power of forgiveness in the face of an offense received and the victory of life over the emptiness of death: all this finds fulfillment in the mystery of his Incarnation, in his becoming man, in his sharing our human weakness so as to transform it by the power of his resurrection

(The Door of Faith # 13)

By faith, the martyrs gave their lives, bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel that had transformed them and made them capable of attaining to the greatest gift of love: the forgiveness of their persecutors. *(The Door of Faith # 13)*

The light shines through the cracks

Jesus could not have imagined this but it is clear that the light shines though the cracks. He never had paved sidewalks to walk on but if he had he would have experienced new life pushing its way through the broken and cracked cement. It is at the weakest point of the cement (i.e., the cracks!) that life is at its strongest. Try to pull a dandelion out that is pushing its way through the crack!

This is why mature believers (that is people who have struggled and wrestled with Jesus) see the sins and failures of their fellow believers as moments that God will reveal Gods-self in new ways.

When your fellow parishioner is charged with embezzling money from his company what does the teachings of Jesus direct you to do? say? and act?

Our faith is very challenging when it comes to confronting the reality of sin among ourselves.

These are the moments in my life when the light (i.e., Christ) shines through the cracks.

Prayer - Meditation

From the Urbi et Orbi Message of Pope John Paul II, Easter Sunday, April 23, 2000

The Risen Christ signals the paths of hope along which we can advance together towards a world more just and mutually supportive, in which the blind egoism of the few will not prevail over the cries of pain of the many, reducing entire peoples to conditions of degrading misery.

May the message of life proclaimed by the angel near the stone rolled back from the tomb overturn the hardness of our hearts; may it lead to removing unjustified barriers and promote a fruitful exchange between peoples and cultures.

