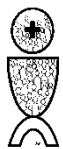


# DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

November 2012



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## What is the Year of Faith?

The Year of Faith declared by Pope Benedict XVI is a “summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world” (Porta fidei 6). The Year of Faith is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with him. The pope has described this conversion as opening the “door of faith” (see Acts 14:27). The “door of faith” is opened at one’s baptism, but during this year Catholics are called to open it again, walk through it and rediscover and renew their relationship with Christ and his Church.

The Year of Faith opened on October 11, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and will close on November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King (Christ the King).



Both of these events (Second Vatican Council and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*) are significant moments in the faith life of Catholics. Likewise, the opening of the Year of Faith coincided with the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, held in October, 2012, with the theme of *The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith*.

The Apostolic letter: PORTA FIDEI – the “door of faith”

may be read on the Vatican site:  
[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/motu\\_proprio/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_motu-proprio\\_20111011\\_porta-fidei\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/motu_proprio/documents/hf_ben-xvi_motu-proprio_20111011_porta-fidei_en.html)

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## Suggested Parish Activities for the Year of Faith

1. Encourage parishioners to read Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Letter, *Porta fidi* (the Door of Faith).
2. Offer a special opportunity to deepen knowledge of the primary documents of the Second Vatican Council and their study of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

3. Publicize the Year of Faith and various events through the media (TV, newspaper, social media, etc.) focusing on the faith, its principles and content.
4. Organize a study day of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.
5. Organize catechetical events or a youth rally.
6. Encourage participation in the Cursillo and Challenge movements.
7. Create special prayer cards for the year to be used at the end of weekend Masses, encouraging people to pray with one another for the special year.
8. Engage in a door-to-door campaign to get an up-to-date census and to invite people back to church.
9. Arrange social gatherings apart from Mass that would bring people together for social times; encourage youth gatherings especially through the use of social media helping young people to come to a deeper faith in God and the Church.
10. Invite gatherings to promote Christian Unity throughout the year or organize special projects associated with social justice. Both ecumenism and social justice are deeply rooted to our faith.
11. Encourage families to pray more together; provide resources for families to help them learn to pray together more; promote Sunday as “Family Day” and encourage people to be together more.
12. Encourage various devotions to Mary; organize pilgrimages, celebrations and gatherings at the major Marian shrines.
13. World Youth Day, in Rio de Janeiro in July 2013, will offer a special occasion for

the young to experience the joy which comes from faith in the Lord Jesus and communion with the Holy Father, in the greater family of the Church.

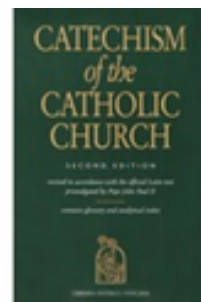
14. Each parish could organize at least one event during the year of faith to assist parishioners to be aware of this important anniversary.

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## **CELEBRATING THE 20<sup>TH</sup>** **ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATECHISM** **OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### **History**

The term “*catechism*” comes from the Greek “*katekhizein*”, which means “to teach orally”, but in later years came to mean a manual of instruction of Christian doctrine.



From the writings of St. Augustine and Saint Gregory we learn that in the early Church, catechetical instruction was standardized in preparation for baptism. Following the invention of the printing press, many books of catechetical instruction were published. The best known were the works of St. Peter Canisius, 1555, and the Catechism of the Council of Trent, published in 1556. Numerous other catechisms were published

in various countries around the world - e.g. the Penny Catechism in Great Britain and the Baltimore Catechism in the United States.

In 1985, on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the close of the Vatican Council, Pope John Paul II convoked an extraordinary assembly of the Synod of Bishops. On this occasion the Synod Fathers stated: “ *Very many have expressed the desire that a catechism or compendium of all catholic doctrine regarding both faith and morals be composed, that it might be, as it were, a point of reference for the catechisms or compendiums that are prepared in various regions. The presentation of doctrine must be biblical and liturgical. It must be sound doctrine suited to the present life of Christians.*”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is the result of over six years of intense work. In 1986, a commission of twelve Cardinals and Bishops, chaired by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict, were entrusted to prepare a draft of the catechism requested by the Synod Fathers. An editorial committee of seven diocesan Bishops, experts in theology and catechesis, assisted the commission in its work. This new catechism was approved and promulgated by Pope John Paul II October 11, 1992.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the catechism is to present a full exposition of catholic doctrine enabling

everyone to know what the church professes, celebrates, lives and prays in her daily life.

Pope John Paul said, “ *All this is even more important today, for an extraordinary commitment to evangelize is urgently needed so that everyone can know and receive the gospel message and grow to the measure of stature of the fullness of Christ.*”

### **Structure**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is divided into four parts:

**Part One:** The Profession of Faith – centered on the Creed.

**Part Two:** The Celebration of the Christian Mystery – centering on the seven sacraments.

**Part Three** – Life in Christ – centered on the Ten Commandments.

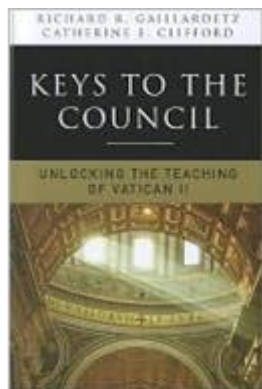
**Part Four** – Christian Prayer – centered on the Our Father.

The ***Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*** given on June 28, 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI is a faithful synthesis of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It contains, in concise form, all the essential elements of the Church’s faith. The *Compendium* assists in making the Catechism more widely known and understood. Pope Benedict entrusted the Compendium to the entire Church “*in order that it may awaken in the Church of the third millennium renewed zeal for evangelization and education in the faith....*”

## **CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup>** **ANNIVERSARY OF VATICAN II** **COUNCIL**

Fifty years have passed since the opening of Vatican II Council. As the church celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, too few Catholics have an adequate grasp of what the Second Vatican Council contributed to the life of the church. The problem is understandable. The Council produced, by far, more document pages than any other council.

*Keys to the Council - Unlocking the teachings of Vatican II* by Richard Gillardetz and Catherine E. Clifford, introduces Vatican II in a book that is user-friendly, even for those without extensive background in Church history, theology, or the Council specifically.



Each chapter places the given passage in its larger historical context, explores its fundamental meaning and significance, and finally considers its larger significance for

the life of the church today. Chapters include exploration of *Sacrosanctum Concilium's* demand for “full, conscious, and active participation” in the liturgy; *Lumen Gentium's* eucharistic ecclesiology; *Gaudium et Spes's* vision of marriage as an intimate partnership of life and love; *Nostra Aetate's* approach to non-Christian religions; and more.

Since the close of the Council, we have witnessed an unprecedented explosion of new lay ecclesial ministries: lay people now study theology and serve as professors, religious educators, catechists, pastoral care givers, canon lawyers, and parish and diocesan administrators. The population of the global Catholic community has more than doubled in the past fifty years, but its center of gravity has shifted to the south.

The renewal and reform of the church sought by the Council was based on an effort of returning to the sources of the great Christian tradition in the Scriptures, in ancient Christian writings, and in the earliest sources of the Christian liturgy. Today we are called to give a more faithful and effective witness to the Gospel.

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### **The Faithful Revolution**

The Office of Worship has purchased a five part DVD series on the documents of Vatican II and plans to present this program during the Year of Faith. Dates and locations will be announced later.



