

YEAR of FAITH:



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The Year of Faith: The Door Is Always Open



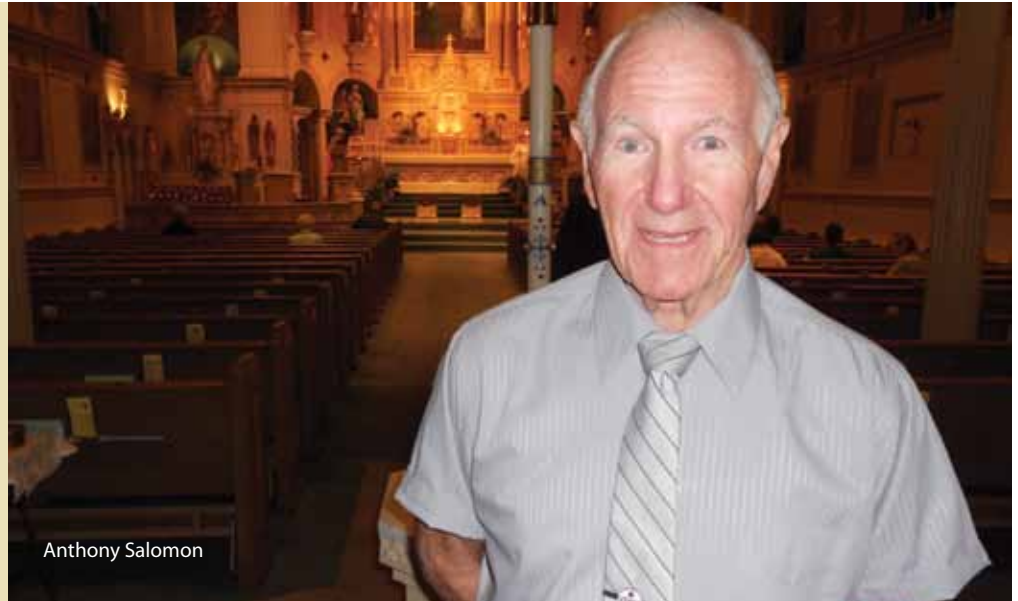
By Archbishop
Jerome E. ListECKI

With these inspiring and encouraging words, Pope Benedict XVI opens *Porta Fidei*, his Pastoral Letter on the Year of Faith: "The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church." Indeed, the journey of faith is an amazing gift! God stands at the ready, holding open the cathedral door to Divine Life, excitedly waiting to usher us into a relationship of deep communion through his living body, the Church.

Honoring the gift of faith and calling us into deeper faith, Pope Benedict has announced a Year of Faith to begin on October 11, 2012. This notably marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The year appropriately concludes on November 24, 2013, the great Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King.

More than a historical commemoration, the Year of Faith challenges all of us with the call to a renewed response of faith in the context of a culture that is indifferent or hostile to the content

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My Faith Story

Holocaust Survivor Ushers in New Faith

Anthony "Otto" Salomon never imagined that he would celebrate his 82nd birthday in Wisconsin, and as a Catholic, no less. A fourth-generation Jewish baker from the city of Cologne, Germany, Otto immigrated to the United States in 1939 with his family, in search of the "American dream."

"My family and I landed in Hoboken, New Jersey with \$20 between us and not one word of English," he explained with a still prominent German accent. While that may have been a deterrent for some people, Otto used the new experience as motivation to create a better life than the one he had been living. As Jews, Otto and his family were escaping the horrors of World War II, which was just getting underway the year they arrived in the United States.

Moving to the United States, a place Otto continues to call "the greatest country in the world," allowed him to live a life free from oppression. It was here that he met

his wife Elanor and together they raised a son, who is now married with a child. After his wife died, Otto became good friends with Susan Astrin, a member of Old St. Mary's Parish in Milwaukee. She brought him to her church one day, and things just "clicked" for Otto, although it

wasn't until nearly 10 years later that he decided to convert to Catholicism.

"Everybody was nice. I was the usher at the 7:15 a.m. Mass for nine years before I decided to convert to the Catholic faith," he explained. "My conversion was a very happy but emotional time for me."

Otto decided to become a member of the Catholic Church after witnessing members of Old St. Mary's Parish community live their faith each day, especially a priest friend, Fr. Michael Hammer, now retired, and those on the pastoral staff:

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Catholic Schools: An Education You Can Have Faith In

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are committed to educational excellence, student diversity and the fostering of a Catholic culture of faith, service and personal responsibility, all in the name of Jesus Christ. Our schools transform local and global communities into centers of faith, hope and charity by providing quality Catholic education to all people.

Enrollment is steadily growing at many of the 119 Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In fact, last year, for the first time in more than 13

years, our Catholic schools experienced a system-wide enrollment increase. That's exciting news for all of us – after all, young people are the future leaders of our Church and our communities!



Your gift to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal helps provide faith-based education for more than 33,000 students.

Are you the person you are today, in part because of your Catholic education? Please give generously to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal and help to make Catholic education accessible for all.

Visit www.catholicappeal.org.

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Fr. Brian Mason, Fr. Michael Michalski and Fr. Tim Kitzke.

“I think what other parishioners see in Otto is a person of faith, who also puts into practice what our faith says we should do – serve others and be gracious and hospitable,” explained Fr. Kitzke.

These days, Otto is content to live a quiet life in Glendale. He reads the Bible every morning and ushers every Sunday at the 7:15 a.m. Mass at Old St. Mary's.

During the Year of Faith, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will share stories of our Catholic community members who have converted to Catholicism or left and returned to the Catholic Church. If you are interested in sharing your faith story, please contact the Communication Office at (414) 769-3461 or communication@archmil.org.

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and values of faith. We cannot become tasteless salt or light that is hidden (Mt. 5:13-16). Instead, Pope Benedict asserts that “we are called to radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.” Seasoning our surroundings and shining with the brightest light, we are called to become “living signs of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world.”

The call to a renewed faith is our journey this year and for a lifetime. With all journeys, we need clear signposts to guide us on our way. The Year of Faith offers these significant landmarks to chart our path into deeper faith:

- Surrender to an “authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Savior of the world.”
- Let the love of Christ penetrate

our hearts to “rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith.”

- Our gaze is to be “fixed upon Jesus Christ” so that we find a new zeal for praying, professing, celebrating and living the faith.
- Ponder the ways of faith by retracing the steps of our ancestors, such as Mary, the apostles, martyrs and saints.
- “Intensify the witness of charity,” giving our preferential attention to the least in whom the “reflection of Christ's own face is seen” (Mt. 25:40).

With these landmarks of faith to guide us, let us walk boldly into the Year of Faith, joining our voices with Pope Benedict in this prayer for the journey: “May this Year of Faith make

our relationship with Christ the Lord increasingly firm, since only in him is there the certitude for looking to the future and the guarantee of an authentic and lasting love.”

Please join Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI for Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 812 N. Jackson Street, Milwaukee, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 11, as our faith community begins this Year of Faith journey. Everyone is welcome to the Year of Faith Opening Mass, which will include a special recognition of catechists, Catholic school teachers and those who assist with faith formation in our parishes and schools.



LIVING OUR FAITH

The Welcoming Parish




As we invite folks to attend Mass on a more regular basis or perhaps return to the Catholic Church, has your parish asked the question, “Are we a welcoming parish?”

Here are a few things all parishes/parishioners can do to be more welcoming:

- Designate greeters at all entrances. Coach them on the importance of smiling and talking to everyone, not just to those they know.
 - Provide nametags for parish staff and volunteers.
 - Place large photos of parish staff and leadership in a prominent place. Include email addresses and phone numbers with an invitation to contact them with questions or concerns.
 - Encourage Communion ministers and lectors to smile.
 - Reserve a few prime parking spots for visitors.
 - Welcome visitors at the beginning of Mass. Don’t forget to invite them back!
- Offer special seating for young parents with children. Remember, Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Luke 18:16)
 - Offer clearly marked seats for those with special needs.
 - Provide returning Catholics the opportunity to share why they stayed away and why they came back today. Offer them the chance to have their questions/concerns answered via your parish website or in a one-on-one meeting with a member of the parish staff.
 - Develop a welcome ministry team. Assign mentors to new parish families to offer a home visit and information to help acquaint them with parish life.
 - Host a Welcome Breakfast for new parishioners a few times a year.
 - Commit to introducing yourself to one new person at every Mass or parish event you attend.

“C4” Yourself!

Learn more about your faith through video! Each week during the Year of Faith, Bishop Donald J. Hying will be featured in a two-minute video to walk you through the Catechism of our Catholic faith. The videos will be posted on www.archmil.org. Sign up to have a link to each newly posted video delivered to your email inbox. Click on the RSS feed symbol  on the homepage of www.archmil.org to register for this free service!

Come and “C” for Yourself:

What Is Your Heart’s Desire?

Jesus turned to the disciples and said, “What are you looking for?”

They said, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” Jesus said to them, “Come and you will see” (John 1:38-39.)

“What are you looking for?” With this question, Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter. He reminds us that deep



down all of us are restless seekers. We are always looking for something more. We look for meaning and purpose in life. We search for happiness and love. We look for experiences that excite us and causes that fulfill us. We look to fill that hole in the soul that is always longing to be filled.

This restlessness is actually placed within us by God’s design. It reminds us that we come from God and are destined for God; the Creator places a spark of Divine Life in our souls at birth. Like atoms drawn to each other to make a chemical compound, the Divine Spark longs to find completion with God in heaven. Being hard-wired for union with God, we naturally spend our earthly days looking for something more.

This desire for something more is the precursor to discipleship. Jesus asks us, “What are you looking for?” The answer is up to us. We can chase after finite things that ultimately do not satisfy, or we can seek union with God through a relationship with Jesus. Will we find ultimate fulfillment? Jesus says, “Come and you will see.”

Evangelization is a primary focus during the Year of Faith. Evangelization of one’s own faith is a critical first step. If we don’t know our faith, how can we confidently share it with others? This column shares what is taught in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. For information on where to access the Catechism, visit www.archmil.org and search “Catechism.”

Año de la Fe: La Puerta Siempre está Abierta

Por Arzobispo Jerome E. Listecky

Con estas palabras animadoras y de inspiración, el Papa Benedicto XVI inicia Porta Fidei, su carta pastoral en el Año de la Fe. “La ‘puerta de la fe’ (Hch 14, 27) está siempre abierta para nosotros, introduciéndonos a la vida en comunión con Dios y permitiéndonos la entrada a su Iglesia...” ¡Por supuesto que el camino en la fe es un regalo maravilloso! Dios se mantiene listo, sosteniendo la puerta abierta de la catedral de la Vida Divina, esperando con entusiasmo para conducirnos a una relación de profunda comunión a través de su cuerpo vivo, la Iglesia.

Honorando el regalo de la fe y llamándonos a una fe más profunda, el Papa Benedicto XVI ha establecido el “Año de la Fe”, el cual empezará el 11 de octubre de 2012, en conmemoración al 50 aniversario de la apertura del Concilio del Vaticano II y el 20 aniversario del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica. De manera apropiada, el año concluye el 24 noviembre de 2013, durante la fiesta de Cristo Rey.

Más que una conmemoración histórica, el “Año de la Fe” nos desafía a todos con el llamado de renovar la fe en un contexto cultural que es indiferente y hostil al contenido y valores de la fe. No podemos dejar que la sal se vuelva sosa y la luz permanezca oculta (cf. Mt 5, 13-16). Al contrario, el Papa Benedicto afirma que “estamos llamados a hacer resplandecer la Palabra de verdad que el Señor Jesús nos dejó”. Preparando nuestro ambiente y brillando radiantemente, estamos llamados a hacer “un signo vivo de la presencia de Cristo resucitado en el mundo”.

El llamado para renovar la fe es nuestra jornada de este año y para toda la vida. Con todas las jornadas, necesitamos



señales claras para guiar nuestro camino. El “Año de la Fe” nos ofrece puntos de referencia para mostrarnos el camino a una fe más profunda:

- Tenemos que entregarnos “a una auténtica y renovada conversión al Señor, único Salvador del mundo”.
- Tenemos que permitir que el amor de Cristo penetre nuestros corazones para “redescubrir la alegría de creer y volver a encontrar el entusiasmo para comunicar la fe”.
- Nuestra mirada debe estar “fija en Jesucristo” para que podamos descubrir un nuevo entusiasmo para orar, profesar, celebrar y vivir la fe.
- Hay que reflexionar sobre la manera en que la fe ha sido expresada, recordando los pasos de nuestros antepasados, por ejemplo María, los apóstoles, los mártires y los santos.
- Tenemos que “intensificar el testimonio de la caridad,” dando atención preferencial a los pobres, en quienes “se refleja el rostro mismo de Cristo” (Mt. 25:40).

Con estos puntos de referencia de fe para guiarnos, caminemos con certeza en el “Año de la Fe” uniendo nuestras voces con el Papa Benedicto en esta oración para la jornada: “Que este Año de la Fe haga cada vez más firme nuestra relación con Cristo, el Señor, pues sólo en él tenemos la certeza para mirar al futuro y la garantía de un amor auténtico y duradero”.

Vengan y Vean por sí mismos.

¿Qué desean sus corazones?

Jesús se dio vuelta y, viendo que lo seguían, les preguntó: “¿Qué quieren?”. Ellos le respondieron: “Rabbí, ¿dónde vives?”. “Vengan y lo verán,” les dijo. (Jn 1:38-39)

“¿Qué quieren?”. Con esta pregunta, Jesús va directo al grano. Él nos recuerda, que en lo profundo de nuestro ser, todos somos inquietos buscadores. Siempre estamos buscando algo más. Estamos buscando el sentido y propósito de nuestras vidas. Buscamos la felicidad y el amor. Buscamos experiencias que nos entusiasman y causas que nos llenan. Siempre buscando cómo llenar el vacío de nuestras almas.

Esta inquietud realmente es puesta en nosotros por designio de Dios. Nos recuerda que provenimos de él y estamos destinados para él, el creador pone en nuestras almas una chispa de Vida Divina al nacer. Como los átomos que son atraídos unos hacia otros para formar un compuesto químico, la Chispa Divina añora encontrar su culminación con Dios en el cielo. Ya que estamos programados para estar en unión con Dios, naturalmente pasamos nuestros días en el mundo en búsqueda de algo más.

Este deseo de algo más es un precursor al discipulado. Jesús nos pregunta, “¿Qué quieren?”. La respuesta depende de nosotros. Podemos buscar en muchas cosas que al final no nos satisfacen, o podemos buscar una unión con Dios a través de una relación con Jesús. ¿Encontraremos la plenitud? Jesús dice, “Vengan y lo verán”.

Están todos cordialmente invitados a la Santa Misa de la apertura del Año de la Fe con el Arzobispo Listecky, el jueves, 11 de octubre de 2012, en la Catedral de San Juan el Evangelista, 812 N. de la Calle Jackson, en Milwaukee, a las 7 de la noche.



¡Muy Pronto! Lecciones especiales sobre Cristo y el Catecismo de la Comunidad Católica con Padre Norberto Sandoval durante el Año de la Fe.