

# YEAR of FAITH:



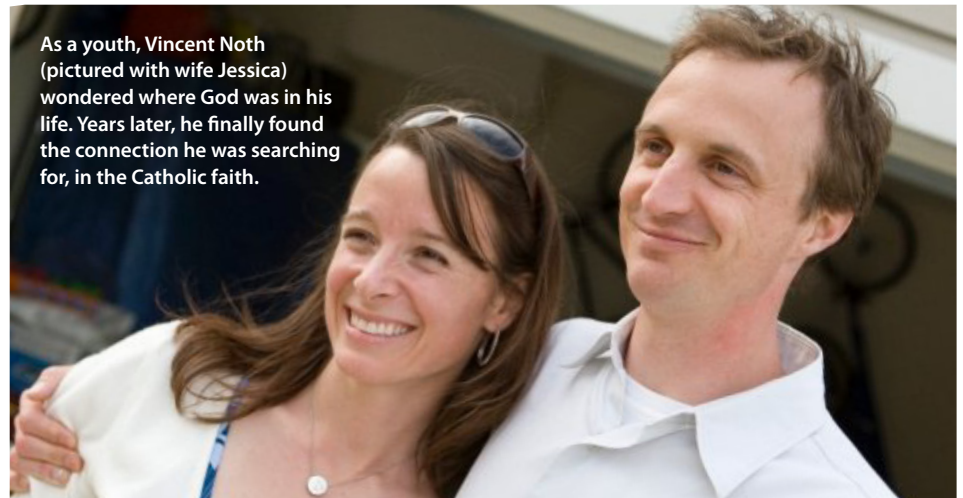
ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE • OCTOBER 2012 - NOVEMBER 2013

## Catholic Returns in Search of Something More

As a child, Vincent Noth used to spend hours awake at night, wondering where God was in his life. While in 6th grade, Vincent struggled with bouts of loneliness, difficulties fitting in at school, and problems at home. When he entered the confirmation program at his parish, he used that opportunity to make his own decision about the Catholic faith: not to commit.

Soon after, Vincent began attending drama school of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Although he looked for anything but faith to make his life meaningful, it wasn't long before he felt the need to rediscover God. Seeing his struggle, a close friend introduced him to a multi-racial, multi-cultural urban ministry, and Vincent immediately felt at home.

"Evident in this community was their vulnerability, passion and abandonment to God in songs of praise," he explained. "They proclaimed Jesus' expression of God's heart for the rebel and the outcast - not the ones who pretend they have it all together." Eventually, Vincent changed his college plans and decided to focus on ministry. He



As a youth, Vincent Noth (pictured with wife Jessica) wondered where God was in his life. Years later, he finally found the connection he was searching for, in the Catholic faith.

entered the seminary and was ordained at Eastbrook Church in Milwaukee, non-denominational, where he served in family ministry. It was here that he met his wife, Jessica, and became part of a vibrant faith community.

Although he and his wife dearly loved Eastbrook Church, Vincent couldn't ignore the feelings in his heart that he needed something more. Although he couldn't at

the time identify it, Vincent later realized that what he needed was a visible expression of the unity in the Body of Christ, which only the Eucharist can give. After a long and difficult struggle in his soul, and prayers and advice from close friends, Vincent came back to the teachings of the Catholic Church, with Jessica soon following through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process.

Today, Vincent and Jessica live their faith each day by caring for others. They regularly pray, grow food and cook meals with fellow neighbors, as well as help with a variety of ministries and not-for-profit organizations. They belong to Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish in Milwaukee.

"I continue to maintain deep and wonderful relationships with many of my non-Catholic friends and former colleagues," Vincent added. "I am one with them in Christ and their lives give witness to me daily."

*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](mailto:communication@archmil.org).*



YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013

### Faith Arising: Living as Easter People in the Year of Faith

The Easter Season is a time to celebrate our faith anew. We're swept up by the power of the Resurrection and everything about our faith should be "on the rise." We are truly rising with Christ when our belief is increasing, our prayer is growing, our witness is expanding and our zeal is overflowing. These are the marks of an Easter faith. And during this Year of Faith, our faith should be growing all the more!

But how do we ignite, nourish and



By Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki

sustain a rising Easter faith such as this? How do we grow into the fullness of our resurrection identity in Christ? The answer lies in pursuing a simple equation of time plus habit. As it always is with faith, growing into a true Easter faith takes time. That is why, in the great wisdom of the Church, Easter is not just a day, but rather a season of 50 days. We are on a 50-day journey proclaiming the risen Lord.

We cannot just randomly wander through the 50 days of Easter and

► See ARCHBISHOP, page 2.

## How Can YOU Evangelize to Others?

It's easy to look to your parish priest to play the primary role in parish evangelization, but there are actually many ways that you, too, can share your faith with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Sometimes, all it takes is a simple invitation for them to feel God's welcoming love in their lives.

- **Invite!** Ask them to join you for Sunday Mass. Afterward, meet for breakfast/lunch to discuss any questions they may have about the Catholic faith.
- **Share!** Direct them to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's web video series, "C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith." Offering real life scenarios, Bishop Don Hying draws from the richness of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and shows how it is relevant today.
- **Prepare!** Think you don't know enough about your faith? Consider attending a spiritual retreat to help ignite your faith and share it with others. Visit [www.JohnPaul2Center.org](http://www.JohnPaul2Center.org) for retreat centers.
- **Live your faith!** Practice the Gospel every day and remember your actions always speak louder than your words.



### Celebrating "50+ Years of Faith" at UWM Newman Center

The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee's Newman Center Campus Ministry program will celebrate more than 50 years of faith the weekend of Sept. 21-22, 2013. The leadership team is currently reaching out to Newman Center alumni for photos and stories that illustrate this momentous occasion. If you are a member of the Newman Center family – or know someone who is – please connect by visiting [www.uwmcatholic.org](http://www.uwmcatholic.org) or by calling (414) 964-6640 for details.

#### ► ARCHBISHOP, from page 1.

assume that our faith will inevitably rise toward a peak at Pentecost. We need to bring purpose and intentionality to our journey, and that is where the concept of habit comes in. We need to combine Easter time with habits of faith.

Let's call these "The Five Habits of a Resurrection Faith." First, we need to practice the habit of personal prayer. We can only rise with Christ if we intimately know Christ. Daily intentional prayer nurtures this relationship. Second, we need to practice the habit of reading sacred Scripture. As St. Jerome said,

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

Third, we need to practice the habit of the sacraments, especially the sacraments of Eucharist and confession. Through the sacraments, we personally encounter the real presence of the Risen Christ, and receive His gift of Divine Resurrection Grace. Fourth, we need to practice the habit of service. We meet the Resurrected Christ directly when we give sacrificial service to the least of our sisters and brothers.

Finally, we need to practice the habit of witness in everyday life. Our faith

will truly rise when we intentionally show it in our words, values, decisions and actions. When people know why we do what we do and see us doing it with great joy, the rising of our faith will invite them into the resurrection of Christ as well.

The Easter season during the Year of Faith is indeed a time of special grace. Let us avail ourselves of this gift of grace by using the time intentionally to practice "The Five Habits of a Resurrection Faith" so that, with Christ, we may experience the fullness of our faith as we LOVE ONE ANOTHER.



## Catholic Film Workshop: Sharing the Faith, One Video at a Time

Where can kids in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee learn the inner workings of a camera and the positioning of lights, the video editing process, AND develop a love of their Catholic faith? At the Catholic Film Workshop, of course!

Previously known as the Tech Club from John Paul II Academy and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Schools in Racine, kids in grades four through eight meet on an informal basis at Lux Mundi Production House in Racine to learn how to evangelize in the digital age. Together, they pray and learn how to use cameras, lights and computers in a fun, faith-filled atmosphere.

“I think what the kids receive most is encouragement from each other to explore and go deeper in their faith,” explained Richard Sosa, the president of Lux Mundi and founder of the group. “They’re able to talk about their faith in a safe environment without feeling awkward. Everyone involved is there for the same reasons: to grow in faith and spread the Gospel. I’m seeing a stronger bond of friendship develop among those involved.”

Videos produced by the Catholic Film Workshop have been posted on YouTube.com, Catholic.org and Gloria.tv, with a combined total of more than 200,000 views! To view one of their most popular videos, visit [tinyurl.com/cbgxeas](http://tinyurl.com/cbgxeas).

## The Holy Spirit and the Church

The often stated comment we hear today is this: “I am spiritual, but not religious.” We also frequently hear this question: “If I follow Jesus, why do I need the Church?” Underlying both of these comments is the essential issue of the relationship between the Spirit and the Church.

Our Catholic understanding holds that, on the day of Pentecost, Christ poured out the Spirit in abundance upon the Church. The Spirit gave birth to the Church, filled

the Church with Divine Life, dwells fully in the Church, and animates the Church’s mission. Pentecost teaches that it is not the Spirit OR the Church, but rather the Spirit IN the Church.



As the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Church continues and completes the mission of Christ and the Spirit in the world (CCC, 737).


The Church is indeed the very sacrament of the Divine Mission

(CCC, 738). As such, she “is sent to announce, bear witness, make present, and spread the mystery of the communion of the Holy Trinity” (CCC, 738).

As the head of the Church, Christ pours out his Spirit upon all the members through the Sacraments. This gift is given to nourish and heal us, bring us into Divine communion, and send us to bear witness to the joy of a life in Christ (CCC, 739). Receiving this “one and the same Spirit,” we are “blended together with one another and with God” (St. Cyril of Alexandria as quoted in CCC, 738).

*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](http://www.archmil.org) and search “Catechism.”*

### “C<sup>4</sup>” 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/year-of-faith.htm](http://www.archmil.org/year-of-faith.htm). Sign up to have a link to each newly posted video electronically delivered to you. Click on the RSS feed symbol  on the homepage of [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org) to register for this free service!

## Viviendo Nuestra Fe Renovados por la Resurrección en el Año de la Fe

La Pascua es un tiempo para celebrar la renovación de nuestra fe. Dejándonos llevar por el poder de la resurrección, todo lo que tiene que ver con nuestra fe debe estar “resucitando”. Resucitamos verdaderamente con Cristo cuando nuestra fe aumenta, nuestras oraciones acrecientan, nuestro testimonio se extiende y nuestro entusiasmo se desborda. Estas son las señas de una fe renovada por la resurrección. ¡Y durante este Año de la Fe, nuestra fe debe crecer aún más!

Sin embargo, ¿cómo encendemos, alimentamos y mantenemos una fe creciente de resurrección? ¿Cómo desarrollamos a plenitud nuestra identidad de resurrección en Cristo? La respuesta está en dedicarle tiempo y desarrollar el hábito. Como es siempre el caso con la fe, desarrollar una fe de resurrección auténtica toma tiempo. Es por eso que, en la gran sabiduría de la Iglesia, la Pascua no es solamente un



día, sino una temporada de 50 días. Estamos en una jornada de 50 días proclamando al Señor resucitado.

No podemos simplemente vagar al azar durante los 50 días de la Pascua y

suponer que nuestra fe inevitablemente alcanzará su cúspide el día de Pentecostés. Tenemos que tener metas y objetivos en nuestra jornada, y aquí es donde entra el concepto del hábito. Necesitamos incorporar el tiempo de la Pascua con los hábitos de la fe.

Llamémosle a estos “Los Cinco Hábitos de una Fe de Resurrección”. Primeramente, necesitamos desarrollar el hábito de la oración personal. Podemos resucitar con Cristo solamente si conocemos a Cristo íntimamente. La oración intencional diaria alimenta esta relación. En segundo lugar, necesitamos desarrollar el hábito de leer las Sagradas Escrituras. Como San Jerónimo dijo, la “Ignorancia de la Escritura es ignorancia de Cristo”.

En tercer lugar, necesitamos desarrollar el hábito de los sacramentos, especialmente los sacramentos de la Eucaristía y la confesión. A través de los sacramentos, encontramos personalmente la presencia real de Cristo Resucitado, y recibimos la gracia de la Divina Resurrección. En cuarto lugar, necesitamos desarrollar el hábito del servicio. Nos encontramos con Cristo Resucitado directamente cuando prestamos nuestro servicio de sacrificio a nuestros hermanos y hermanas más vulnerables.

Finalmente, necesitamos desarrollar el hábito de dar testimonio en la vida cotidiana. Nuestra fe aumentará verdaderamente cuando lo demostremos intencionalmente en nuestras palabras, valores, decisiones y acciones. Cuando la gente sabe por qué hacemos lo que hacemos y nos mira haciéndolo con gran alegría, el surgimiento de nuestra fe les invitará también a ellos a la resurrección de Cristo.

El tiempo de la Pascua durante el Año de la Fe es realmente un tiempo de gracia especial. Aprovechemos este don de la gracia para utilizar el tiempo intencionalmente desarrollando “Los Cinco Hábitos de una Fe de Resurrección” para que, con Cristo, tengamos la experiencia de la plenitud de nuestra fe a medida que nos amemos los unos a los otros.

## El Espíritu Santo y La Iglesia

El comentario que a menudo se escucha hoy en día es: “soy espiritual, pero no soy religioso” También escuchamos frecuentemente esta pregunta: “¿Por qué necesito la Iglesia, si sigo a Jesús?” El asunto esencial al fondo de estos dos comentarios es la relación entre el Espíritu Santo y la Iglesia.

Nuestra Iglesia Católica cree que, en Pentecostés, Cristo derramó el Espíritu en abundancia sobre la Iglesia. El Espíritu dio luz a la Iglesia, llenó a la Iglesia con Vida Divina, vive plenamente con la Iglesia, y anima la misión de la Iglesia. Pentecostés enseña que no es el espíritu O la Iglesia, sino el Espíritu EN la Iglesia.

Como el Cuerpo de Cristo y el Templo del Espíritu Santo, la Iglesia continua realizando la misión de Cristo y del Espíritu en el mundo (Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, CIC, 737). Realmente la Iglesia es el sacramento de la Misión Divina. La Iglesia “ha sido enviada para anunciar y dar testimonio,

para actualizar y extender el Misterio de la Comunión de la Santísima Trinidad” (CIC, 738).

Como cabeza de la Iglesia, Cristo arroja su Espíritu sobre todos los miembros a través de los sacramentos. Este don es dado para alimentarnos y sanarnos, traernos en comunión Divina y dar testimonio a la alegría de vida en Cristo (CIC, 739). Recibiendo el mismo y único Espíritu, “nos hemos fundido entre nosotros y con Dios.” (San Cirilo de Alejandría, citado en CIC, 738)



Cada semana encontrarán disponible un nuevo mensaje en nuestro sitio web, <http://www.archmil.org/Espanol.htm> y en el programa de radio “El Mensajero Católico” los sábados de 8 – 9 de la mañana en la Gran D, 104. 7 FM.