

YEAR of FAITH:



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► When he first stepped onto his college campus, Matt McCabe had no idea that a classmate, now Rep. Paul Ryan, would share a lesson with him about the Catholic faith. Pictured are Matt and his wife, Ann, with their three children (left to right), Charlie, Jack and Grace.



Future Legislator Connects Classmate to Catholic Faith

When 18-year-old Matt McCabe first stepped on the campus of Miami University in Ohio, he was searching for more than just a college degree. A native of Middletown, Ohio, Matt was raised in a Lutheran family, but never really felt a connection to the faith. He visited a local Lutheran congregation when he first attended the university, but was unable to find a spiritual home there. Noticing his faith struggle, a classmate invited him to a Catholic parish nearby, and, on a whim, Matt decided to go. It was there, at Mass, that he found a connection to God. There was really a sense of belonging.

"I just really liked the Mass," Matt explained. "One of the first things that appealed to me was that the Mass was the same whenever I went." Matt continued to attend with his friend and classmate whom, today, most everyone recognizes: Rep. Paul Ryan, whom Matt recalls as being a "good steward of the faith, even at the age of 18."

Matt eventually met his wife, Ann, also Catholic, and began to attend Mass with her on a regular basis. However, it wasn't until their third wedding anniversary that he decided to convert to Catholicism.

"After our first son was born, I knew that I had to make the decision to enter fully into the Catholic faith. I wanted to set the example, and we wanted to raise him knowing it was something that we both strongly believed in," Matt explained.

Twenty-four years after he attended his first Mass, Matt and his family now belong to St. Eugene Parish, Fox Point. Matt and his wife, along with their three children, Charlie, Grace and Jack, are all actively involved in parish life. In addition to helping run St. Eugene's annual dinner dance, Ann is also a teacher for the parish school, and their kids are often altar servers for Mass.

If you are interested in sharing your faith story, please contact communications@archmil.org.



The Year of Faith: The Advent of Christ in the Year of Faith



By Archbishop
Jerome E. ListECKI

Beginning this Sunday, and continuing for the next four weeks, we journey through the sacred season of Advent. It is that special time in the Church year when we prepare ourselves for the "advent" or "coming" of Christ into our lives.

Our attention to the coming of the Savior takes on even deeper meaning this year because we make our Advent journey in the context of the Year of Faith. This year we ponder, in a special way, the saving significance of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

In his Apostolic Letter on the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict implores us: "During this time we will need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the 'pioneer and perfecter of faith' (Heb 12:2); in Him all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfillment." So, during this Advent season, we are particularly encouraged to fix our gaze upon Christ, who longs to come anew to save us from our greatest trials and satisfy our deepest hungers.

The Advent journey of faith is a rich and profound one. Looking through the kaleidoscope of Advent, we are invited to see the

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Year of Faith Lenten Retreat Days

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a Year of Faith Retreat Day during Lent.

The 2013 dates are:

- **Saturday, February 23.**

Presenter: Fr. Luke Strand, vocations director, Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

This event is for young adult Catholics in their 20s and 30s.

- **Friday, March 1.**

Presenter: Rich Harter, director, evangelization, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Event open to all adult Catholics.

- **Saturday, March 16.**

Presenter: Rich Harter, director, evangelization, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Event open to all adult Catholics.



- **Saturday, March 23.**

Presenter: Most Reverend Donald J. Hying, auxiliary bishop, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Event is for Spanish-speaking adult Catholics and will be offered in Spanish.

For more information, contact Rich Harter at harterr@archmil.org or 414-758-2215. These events are sponsored by the Office of Evangelization.

Five Things Catholics Should Know About the Catechism

During the Year of Faith, the Holy Father is encouraging Catholics to study the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which turns 20 years-old this year, to better understand the book and its significance in our faith.

Here are five things Catholics should know about the Catechism:

1. **It's universal in its scope.** The

Catechism of the Catholic Church is the first book of its kind in 450 years. The world's bishops created it to convey the content of the Catholic faith to the whole Church and the whole world.

2. **It's universal in its content.** The

Catechism compiles the living tradition of the Catholic Church and divides it into four sections: what Catholics believe (the Creed), how the faith is transmitted (worship and sacraments) and how Catholics are called to live

(moral life) and prayer.

3. **It's a resource for education.** The main goal of the Catechism is to help bishops, pastors, catechists, parents and all who teach the faith.

4. **It's an invitation to prayer.** The

Catechism draws from the richness of Catholic tradition, including the lives of the saints, the teaching documents of the Church and Scripture. This makes it useful for not only learning about the Catholic faith, but also for growing in faith through meditation and prayer.

5. **It's for Catholics of all ages.** Learning and living the faith is an ongoing process throughout one's life, and the Catechism can help Catholics come to know and love Christ.

At almost 700 pages, the Catechism can be intimidating, but it also has summaries of its content throughout. A version of the Catechism specifically designed for youth,

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coming of Christ as a marvelous threefold mosaic. We see Christ coming in the past. We see Christ coming in our lives right now. And we see Christ coming at the end of time.

To fix our gaze on Christ's coming in the past is to experience God dwelling among us at a particular moment in human history. We remind ourselves that our relationship with God and each other has been inexorably altered by the saving life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Advent invites us to prepare for the implications of the Incarnation.

To fix our gaze on Christ's coming in the present is to experience God dwelling among us in our own time. We open ourselves to the reality that the eternal Christ can be born anew in our hearts and lives today. Advent invites us to prepare for our own moment of God's coming.

To fix our gaze on Christ's coming in the future is to experience God dwelling among us at the end of time. We awaken ourselves to the reality that Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and restore all creation to Himself. Advent invites us to prepare for our eternal heavenly dwelling.

So, in a special way during this Year of Faith, we fix our Advent gaze on Christ and prepare for His threefold coming. With hearts open and faith renewed, let us enthusiastically proclaim our Advent prayer: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!"

known as the YouCat, is also available.

The Catechism for adults and youth is available at most Catholic bookstores, as well as online sources.

(This article is excerpted from an article, "Five Things Catholics Should Know About the Catechism," authored by Alissa Thorell, and distributed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

LIVING OUR FAITH



Faith, Fun and Formation

Young adult groups forming throughout the archdiocese

Learn more about your Catholic faith in a social setting with fellow young adults, by checking out the following faith groups, designed for young people, married or single, in their 20s and 30s. Simply find a group near you, and show up for a night of faith, fun and formation!

Encounter – Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee

Lake Country Young Adult Ministries – Revere's Wells Street Tavern, Delafield

Lolek Catholic Young Adult Group – St. Mary's Visitation Parish, Elm Grove

Milwaukee Young Adults Ministry (MYAM) – Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee

Ozaukee County Young Adult – St. Peter of Alcantara Parish, Port Washington, St. Francis Borgia Parish, Cedarburg, Lumen Christi Parish, Thiensville

Water's Edge Young Adult Group – Holy Angels, St. Francis Cabrini and St. Mary Immaculate Conception parishes, West Bend
For dates, times, locations and topics, visit www.johnpaul2center.org/NazarethProject/YoungAdult.htm or the website for each young adult group.

"C4" Yourself!

Learn more about your faith through video! Each week during the Year of Faith, Bishop Donald J. Hyung 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. 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 to register for this free service!

In the Image of God:

Seeing Ourselves as God Sees Us

In downtown Louisville, KY, the great Catholic monk and mystic, Thomas Merton, had this powerful revelation: "Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only we could see each other that way all the time..."

Indeed if only we could see ourselves



as God sees us! Seeing life from the Divine perspective awakens us to the truth that God is the source of all creation. Marked with the fingerprint of the Creator's hand, everything is sacred and everything is a gift. Thus, the entire world becomes a sanctuary and sacrament of God's holy presence.

Seeing ourselves as God sees us, calls us to remember that God lovingly created us in his own sacred image and likeness. From the dust of the ground, God formed us by breathing into our nostrils the Divine breath of life. God intentionally willed us into existence, designing us to become temples of the Holy Spirit united as the one Body of Christ.

Through God, with God, in God, in union with God and each other, we have a sacred dignity. That is how God sees us. O Lord, help us to see ourselves in that same way!

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."

Alimenten su Alma

Alimenten su alma con la palabra de Dios escuchando el programa el Mensajero Católico, los sábados de 8 a.m. a 9 a.m. en La Grand, 104.7 F.M. Sus presentadores; el Obispo Donald J. Hying junto con el Sr. Otilio Fernandez, compartirán enseñanzas y temas de la fe católica para que vivan y crezcan en Cristo.



La Venida de Cristo en el Año de la Fe

Por Arzobispo Jerome E. ListECKI

Empezando este domingo, y a través de las próximas cuatro semanas, caminaremos por la temporada sagrada de Adviento. Este es un tiempo especial en el año litúrgico de la Iglesia, en el cual nos preparamos para el “adviento” o la “venida” de Cristo en nuestras vidas.

Siendo este el Año de la Fe, nuestra atención a la venida del Salvador durante la jornada de Adviento adquiere un significado aún más profundo. Este año, reflexionaremos de una manera especial, sobre el significado salvífico de Dios, quien se encarna y habita entre nosotros.

En la Carta Apostólica del Año de la Fe, el Papa Benedicto XVI nos implora: “Durante este tiempo, tendremos la mirada fija en Jesucristo, ‘autor y perfeccionador de la fe’ (Hb 12, 2); en él encuentra su cumplimiento todo afán y todo anhelo del corazón humano”. Por lo tanto, durante esta temporada de Adviento, se nos anima especialmente a tener la mirada fija en Cristo, quien añora salvarnos nuevamente de nuestras grandes pruebas y satisfacer nuestros más profundos deseos.

La jornada de fe durante el Adviento es rica y profunda. Mirando a través del caleidoscopio de Adviento, estamos invitados a ver la venida de Cristo como un maravilloso mosaico de tres partes. Vemos la venida de Cristo en el pasado; vemos la venida de Cristo a nuestras vidas ahora; y vemos la venida de Cristo al fin del mundo.

Tener la mirada fija en la venida de Cristo en el pasado es experimentar a Dios viviendo entre nosotros en un momento en particular en la historia humana. Recordamos que nuestra relación con Dios y con los demás ha sido alterada inexorablemente por la vida, la muerte y la resurrección salvífica de Jesús. El Adviento nos invita a prepararnos para las implicaciones de la Encarnación.

Tener la mirada fija en la venida de Cristo en el presente es experimentar a Dios viviendo entre nosotros en nuestro tiempo. Nos abrimos a la realidad de que Cristo eterno nace nuevamente en nuestros corazones y nuestras vidas hoy en día. El Adviento nos invita a prepararnos para la venida de Dios en nuestras propias vidas.

Tener la mirada fija en la venida de Cristo en el futuro es experimentar a Dios viviendo entre nosotros durante el fin del mundo. Nos abrimos a la realidad de que Cristo vendrá de nuevo con gloria para juzgar a los vivos y muertos y para restaurar toda la creación. El Adviento nos invita a prepararnos para nuestro hogar eterno en el cielo.

Por lo tanto, de una manera especial durante el Año de la Fe, fijamos nuestra mirada de Adviento en Cristo y nos preparamos para su venida. Con el corazón abierto y fe renovada, vamos entusiastamente a proclamar nuestra oración de Adviento “¡Oh Ven, Oh Ven Emmanuel!”

En la Imagen de Dios:

Nos Vemos Como Dios Nos Ve

En el centro de Louisville, Kentucky, el gran monje y místico católico, Thomas Merton, tuvo esta poderosa revelación: “Entonces fue como si de repente viera la secreta belleza de sus corazones, la persona que cada uno es a los ojos de Dios. ¡Si por lo menos nos viéramos unos a otros así todo el tiempo!”

En verdad, si tan solo nos viéramos como Dios nos ve! Mirar la vida desde la perspectiva divina nos despierta a la verdad que Dios es la fuente de toda la creación. Marcados con la mano de Dios, todo es sagrado y todo es un don. Por lo tanto, el mundo entero se hace un santuario y un sacramento de la sagrada presencia de Dios.

Vemos como Dios nos ve nos recuerda que Dios nos creó amorosamente a su imagen y semejanza. Dios nos formó del polvo de la tierra, soplando en nosotros su aliento de vida divina. Fuimos creados por la voluntad de Dios, diseñados para ser templos del Espíritu Santo unidos como un solo Cuerpo de Cristo.

Por Dios, con Dios, en Dios, en unión con Dios y con el prójimo, alcanzamos una dignidad sagrada. Esta es la manera como Dios nos ve. ¡Oh Señor, ayúdanos a vernos de la misma manera!



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.