



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

*"They called  
the community  
together and  
related all that  
God had  
helped them  
accomplish,  
and how he  
had opened  
the door of  
faith...."*

*(Acts 14:27)*



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# THE CALL

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## Year of Faith

October 2012-November 2013

Throughout the history of the Church, Popes have repetitively called upon the faithful to dedicate themselves into a deeper understanding of the faith. Pope Paul VI announced 1967 as a Year of Faith to commemorate the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul. That year, all of us, the living Body of Christ, were called to collectively and individually make a sincere profession of faith. We were to bring to our hearts, not just to our minds, the words we profess when we say The Apostles' Creed or The Nicene Creed during Mass.

Last fall, a Year of Faith was again declared by Pope Benedict XVI to Catholics all over the world. The date chosen to begin this Year of Faith was October 11, 2012, since it marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and it is also the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The closing date of our present Year of Faith is November 24, 2013. On that date, we will celebrate the Solemn Feast of Christ the King.

During this Year of Faith, each of us is called upon to deepen our own faith. As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us: *"The Year of Faith is an opportunity for every Catholic to turn towards Jesus Christ, encounter him in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and rediscover the Faith and Church."* We are invited to have a renewal in the message of the Gospel and a willingness to be evangelizers.

What are some ways we share our faith or be evangelizers? We can impart to our children how much God loves them. We can

treat all people with the love and compassion of Jesus. We can involve ourselves in one of the ministries in our parish. We can update ourselves on the Church's stance on social issues. We can share our Christianity by our words and actions with others. We hear in Chapter 2 verse 26, in the letter of James: *"For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without work is dead."* (New American Bible)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Article 2, Section 166 reminds us:

*"Faith is a personal act—the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as not one can live alone. You have not given yourself to faith, as you have not given yourself to life. The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith, I support other in the faith."*

Especially during this Year of Faith, we are invited to have a personal encounter with Jesus and to deepen our relationship with him. Conversion does not happen only once. It is an ongoing process in each of our lives. Faith is a precious gift, given freely to each of us by God. This gift is one to be cared for, cherished, and to share not only among ourselves here at St. Paul Parish, but to convey to others the good news of the Gospel, by the way we live our lives.

In responding to this Year of Faith, the U.S. Bishops gave us this prayer:

*Heavenly Father, stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News. Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others. Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions. In moments of hesitation, remind me: If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel? If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed? If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim? God our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the New Evangelization to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*