The COURIER

Special "Year of Faith" Advertisement Offer!

Year of Faith

Special Edition Insert of The Courier

Year of Faith 2012 - 2013

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The Year of Faith Begins!

By Sr. Mariana Koonce, RSM

The Year of Faith is finally here! After being announced by Pope Benedict XVI in his letter *Porta Fidei*, ("Door of Faith") last October, exactly one year later on October 11, 2012, the Year of Faith will open for the universal church. In the Diocese of Winona, we will have our Diocesan celebration the following day, on October 12 at our Catechetical Day in Albert Lea.

Pope Benedict has called for this Year as a special time of renewal in the Church. October 11 is the anniversary of two important events: the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 30th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The Year of Faith closes on the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 24, 2013.

These dates emphasize the primary goals of the Year of Faith: to rediscover the joy of the encounter with Christ, to deepen our knowledge of the content of our Faith as it is compiled in the Catechism and to re-examine the documents of the Second Vatican Council in the light of 2000 years of Catholic teaching.

In the Diocese of Winona, we have been ardently planning for the past year to ensure that this is a special year for the people of our Diocese. The centerpiece of our Diocesan plan is this monthly Year of Faith insert and the Year of Faith web page on our website.

Through these means we hope to provide you with the opportunity to enter into the Year of Faith by introducing you to sections of the Catechism, enlightening you with the documents of the Second Vatican Council, highlighting all the many events taking place in our diocese during this year and encouraging you to live your faith authentically, empowered by the knowledge you have gained. If you have never picked up a Catechism because you thought catechisms disappeared after Vatican II, or never read a church document because they were too intimidating, now is your chance to discover the richness, beauty, and accessibility of these resources.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Heb 13:8). Because Jesus Christ is the same, the doctrine He handed down to the Church through the teachings of the Apostles and the words of Scripture is the same.

The Second Vatican Council was a call for us to discover it anew for ourselves. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* presents a summary of that doctrine for all, so that we may know the faith that we profess, celebrate, live and pray. Only once we are firmly grounded in our own Faith, can we participate in the New Evangelization, bringing others to the fullness of Truth in Christ.

We hope that you will engage in this Year of Faith with an open heart and an open mind, seeking Our Lord Jesus Christ, seeking to know Him in the Eucharist, in the words of Scripture and the teachings of Tradition.

As our Holy Father says in *Porta Fidei*, "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." (#15).

From the Holy Father ... Porta Fidei

Excerpts taken from "Porta Fidei" by Pope Benedict XVI.

The door of faith is always open

1. 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. It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace.

To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (cf. Rom 6:4), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life, fruit of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, whose will it was, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, to draw those who believe in him into his own glory (cf. Jn 17:22).

To profess faith in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is to believe in one God who is Love (cf. 1 Jn 4:8): the Father, who in the fullness of time sent his Son for our salvation; Jesus Christ, who in the mystery of his death and resurrection redeemed the world; the Holy Spirit, who leads the Church across the centuries as we await the Lord's glorious return.

We need to rediscover the journey of faith

2. Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ.

During the homily at the Mass marking the inauguration of my pontificate I said: "The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance."[1]

It often happens that Christians are more concerned for the social, cultural and political consequences of their commitment, continuing to think of the faith as a self-evident presupposition for life in society. In reality, not only can this presupposition no longer be taken for granted, but it is often openly denied.[2]

Whereas in the past it was possible to recognize a unitary cultural matrix, broadly accepted in its appeal to the content of the faith and the values inspired by it, today this no longer seems to be the case in large swathes of society, because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people.

The light should not be kept hidden

3. We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden (cf. Mt 5:13-16). The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within him (cf. Jn 4:14). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of

Holy Father, cont. on next page

What is the "Year of Faith" insert?

The ***"Year of Faith"*** special edition insert of *The Courier* will run for **14 months** (October 2012 - November 2013).

This insert takes readers deeper into the important issues of our faith. It will be a **must read** for our subscribers this year.

It is created to be taken out and read apart from *The Courier*. Even being saved & referenced by our audience, it's the ***perfect place for your advertisement!***

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