

Joy-Filled Witnesses to Christ!

# RENEW

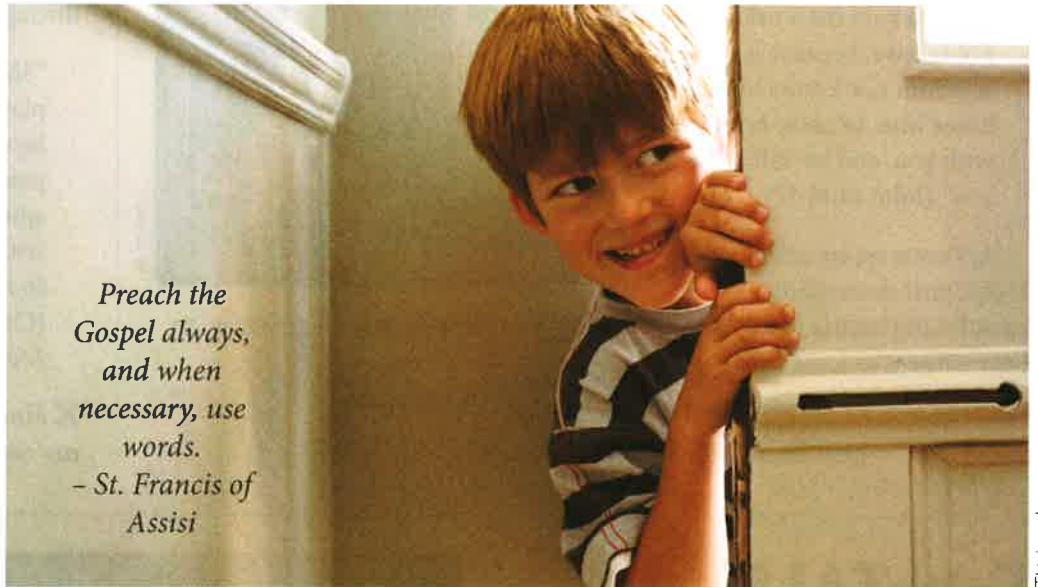
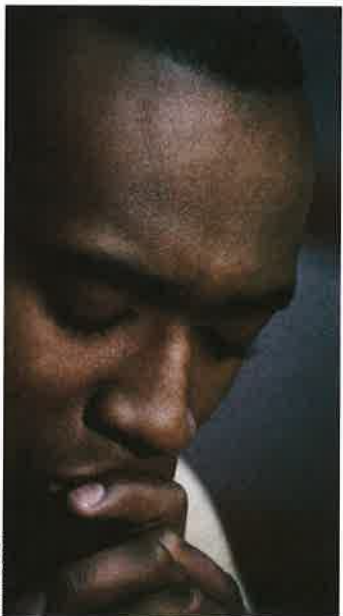
Reflections  
for the Year  
of Faith

Prayer • The Mass  
Part Three  
**EVANGELIZATION**  
• Outreach •

## YOUR FAITH

### Living the Year of Faith

Along with believers throughout the world, we are living the *Year of Faith* proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI. The Year of Faith continues through November 24, 2013, concluding on the Feast of Christ the King. This year, Catholics are called to “open the door of faith” to the contemporary world with a renewed conversion to Jesus Christ.



*Preach the  
Gospel always,  
and when  
necessary, use  
words.*  
– St. Francis of  
Assisi

### 3 Ways to “Open the Doors of Faith”

As followers of Jesus, we are called to lead others on the path of faith. The *Catechism* reminds us of this mission: “Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, ‘that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life’” (CCC 905).

**1** **Strengthen your own faith.** The beginning of the Year of Faith coincides with the anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the promulgation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Take a few minutes each day to study the documents from these Catholic sources as a way to deepen your knowledge of Church teachings.

**2** **Do not be afraid.** As Catholics in the modern world, we can sometimes feel pressure to keep our faith to ourselves. Jesus reminds us that we should not hide our light! Pray for the courage to be bold in faith and do not be afraid to share your beliefs with love.

**3** **Live the Gospel.** The way we live our daily lives communicates our faith to the world around us. The choices we make, where we spend our time, what we value – all reflect our commitment to the Christian life. Sometimes we are also called to explain lovingly what we believe or to speak up on behalf of the poor or vulnerable. How do we live the faith with love and compassion?

# REFLECTIONS

## ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

### I believe in the Holy Spirit...

In John's Gospel we read how Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit as our advocate:

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you" (John 14:16-17).

At Pentecost we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles in tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit animates them with great zeal to bear witness to Jesus Christ.



The Crosiers

How does the Holy Spirit guide my life?  
Do I live out my faith with the zeal of the Spirit?



## WE BELIEVE

The overall mission of the Second Vatican Council was evangelization: to transform the world through Christ. Pope Benedict XVI calls upon all believers to renew their commitment to this mission throughout the Year of Faith.

"Since they have an active role to play in the whole life of the Church, laymen are not only bound to penetrate the world with a Christian spirit, but are also called to be witnesses to Christ in all things in the midst of human society" (*Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, 43).

✕ How do I witness to Jesus Christ in my daily life?

## FaithTALK

Just like the disciples, we have been sent by Christ to carry on his mission in the world. We are sent to spread the love of God to the world – the WHOLE world. It is easy to feel overwhelmed. The world and its problems are so big that it is easy to feel small in comparison. It is helpful to remember that the disciples didn't save the world in a day. In fact, they started by just spreading the message of Christ to people around them. It made an impact, and look at how that message caught on!



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### What is the NEW EVANGELIZATION?

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. —Romans 10:17



At the end of the millennium, Pope John Paul II called for a New Evangelization with the mission to "proclaim Christ to all peoples" (*Redemptoris Missio*, 3). In our day, Pope Benedict XVI has made the New Evangelization a central focus of his teaching. The Year of Faith is integral to the New Evangelization. As we deepen our faith in God through prayer, study, and a renewed commitment to the holy Eucharist, we reflect the teachings of the Gospel as joyful witnesses to Christ for all the world to see!

Mother Teresa said, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

What is one small thing I can do today to share God's love?