

Joy-Filled Witnesses to Christ!

# RENEW YOUR FAITH

Reflections  
for the Year  
of Faith

Prayer • The Mass  
Part Four  
**OUTREACH**  
• Evangelization

## A Year to Grow in Faith

Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a *Year of Faith* calling all believers to a deeper faith in God and strengthened commitment to Christ and his Church. Faith is a gift; it is the foundation of who we are as God's people. Throughout this special year, we are called to become "living signs of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world" (Benedict XVI, apostolic letter *Porta fidei*, 15). We share the light of Christ when we love and serve our neighbors.

## 3 Ways to Love your Neighbor

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches that after love of God, the greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves (22:37-40). And St. Paul reminds us that we are to "serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13). Inherent to living as a Christian disciple is the responsibility to love and care for each other as Jesus has taught us.

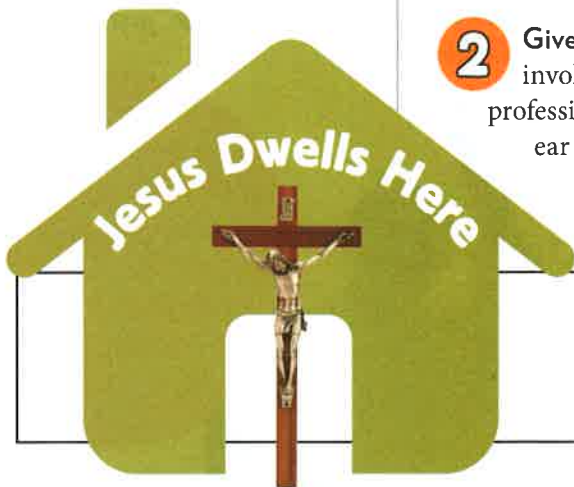


*See the Face of God in everyone.*  
—St. Catherine Labouré

Shutterstock, Above: The Crosiers

- 1 Branch out.** Take a risk; go out and meet your neighbors, especially if you're new to an area. Before or after Mass on Sunday, introduce yourself to a parishioner or family that you have never met.
- 2 Give from the heart.** Outreach does not always involve financial giving. Sharing your time or professional expertise, or just offering a listening ear can make a difference to someone who is lonely, sick, or struggling.

- 3 See with the eyes of faith.** Stewardship is a unique way of living based in the ancient teaching that everything is a gift from God. When we give to our parish, our community, or a neighbor in need, we are sharing resources that have been given to us through grace.



Transform your home into a sacred space for the Year of Faith and beyond. Place a crucifix near the front door (or the door that you use the most) as a daily reminder of Christ's gift of sacrifice and salvation.

# REFLECTIONS

## ON THE APOSTLES' CREED

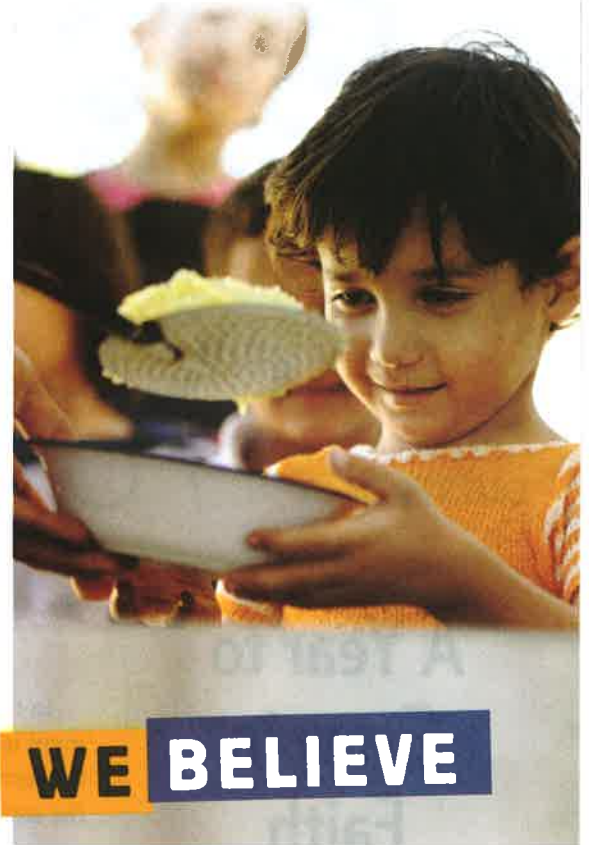
I believe in the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.



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At the conclusion of the Creed, we profess our belief in the universal Church, created through God's will, founded by Jesus Christ, and animated by the Holy Spirit. Christ unifies all believers into one body, one communion of saints, both the living and the dead. It is Christ who forgives our sins and Christ who rose out of the tomb to new, eternal, and everlasting life. In this Year of Faith, let us renew our commitment to Jesus Christ, the center of our faith and Savior of the world.

What does it mean to have Christ as the center of your life?

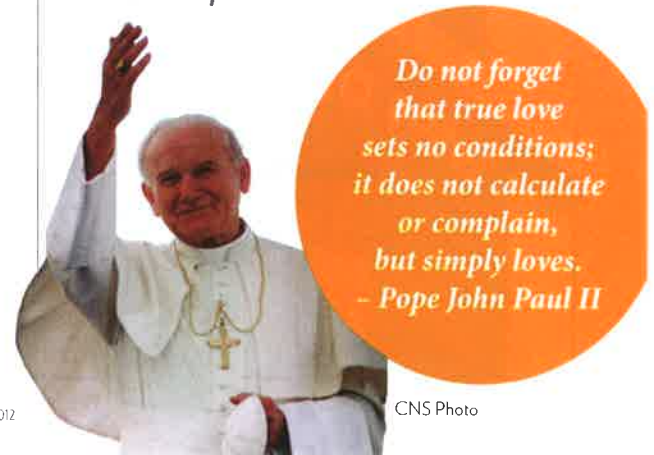


**WE BELIEVE**

The Year of Faith begins on October 11, the day the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* was promulgated by Pope John Paul II twenty years ago. The *Catechism* is more than a list of the teachings of the Catholic faith; it is a guide to help us live out the call to discipleship in our daily lives.

“As leaven in the dough, the newness of the kingdom should make the earth ‘rise’ by the Spirit of Christ. This must be shown by the establishment of justice in personal, social, economic and international relations, without ever forgetting that there are no just structures without people who want to be just” (CCC 2832).

✘ What does it mean to be “just” in our relationships?



Do not forget that true love sets no conditions; it does not calculate or complain, but simply loves.  
– Pope John Paul II

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## Catholic ESSENTIALS

Rooted in Scripture (Matthew 25:31-46), the Corporal Works of Mercy have long been a part of our Catholic faith tradition. Practicing these merciful works is a means of grace and sanctification; the beatitudes remind us that “blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7). In this Year of Faith, let us renew our obligation to these merciful works.

