



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

LIVING
OUR
Relationship
WITH
JESUS CHRIST



“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”

Pope John XXIII

Witnesses of Love

Living signs of Christ's presence in the world

Blessed Pope John XXIII (1881-1963)

Declared blessed in 2000, Pope John XXIII could someday be called saint. But “Good Pope John” is what people dubbed him because of his kindness and warmth. Born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli to sharecroppers in Bergamo, Italy, he was one of thirteen children. After ordination in 1904, Father Roncalli was secretary to Bergamo’s bishop and lectured at the seminary. Drafted into the army, he served as a medic and chaplain. Then he was the seminary’s spiritual director until becoming a bishop. As apostolic delegate to Turkey, Roncalli helped the Jewish underground save thousands. Subsequently he was appointed Venice’s cardinal-archbishop.

In 1958, Roncalli was elected pope. Although not much was expected of this seventy-seven-year-old, he astonished everyone by calling the Second Vatican Council to

modernize the Church. This humble, smiling pope won the world’s affection. Breaking precedent, he traveled to other countries and went out to people in his Roman diocese. He visited hospitals and the prison and sneaked out to walk the streets incognito. A man of peace, he deleted the slur against the Jewish people in the liturgy and confessed the Church’s past anti-Semitism. He mediated during the Cuban missile crisis and wrote the encyclical “Peace on Earth.” He promoted ecumenism. His sense of humor was well known. When asked how many worked at the Vatican, he answered, “About half.” Dying of cancer, Pope John prayed, “That they all may be one.” His book, *Journal of a Soul*, records his pursuit of holiness, which he certainly attained by his loving heart. His feast day is October 11.

Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND

For Reflection

1. Pope John XXIII radiated joy. What do you think was the source of his cheerful disposition?
2. This Year of Faith marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. What are some themes that this council presented in its sixteen documents? How have they affected the Church and you?
3. Pope John XXIII was not afraid of change. What new thing can you incorporate in your life to better present the face of Christ to the world?
4. When have you been an instrument of peace? Is there a current situation that calls for you to be a peacemaker? If so, what action can you take?

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