



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

LIVING
OUR
Relationship
WITH
JESUS CHRIST



"The 'door of faith' is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church... To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime."

(PORTA FIDEI, 1)

Vatican II | *What Difference Does it Make?*

DOCUMENT: **PORTA FIDEI**
Apostolic Letter by Pope Benedict XVI

PORTA FIDEI is an apostolic letter written by Pope Benedict XVI indicating that a "Year of Faith" to begin on October 11, 2012 and end on November 24, 2013 celebrates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the issuance of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Porta Fidei is Latin for Door of Faith. The Pope wrote, "The 'door of faith' 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."

During this year of faith, with humility we have an opportunity to gain deeper insight into the mystery of our salvation in the mystery of an all-loving God. The more we know, the more we should

love; not an academic knowledge, but of a wisdom that allows us to see God in our lives.

"Why the Year of Faith"? Pope Benedict XVI suggests this is a time for a renewal of faith, to review the documents of the Second Vatican Council, to reinvigorate the proclamation of faith in the Creed, to strengthen personal prayer and devotional practices and to rediscover how to feed ourselves on the Word of God and the Bread of Life so as to joyfully share the faith.

The theme of "Living our Relationship with Jesus Christ" is the theme in the Diocese of Cleveland for this Year of Faith and is proclaimed on banners. Hopefully, collectively our renewal of faith through participation in the worship and activities provided in the Parish, Diocese, and Universal Church will deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church will be renewed.

Bishop Richard G. Lennon

Reflection Questions

1. Who with love has opened the 'door of faith' for me?
2. What has been my journey of faith?
3. Where on my journey have I struggled, where is it strong?
4. What are the areas where my faith could be renewed?
5. What actions can I take during this year of faith?

Document Quote

"What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord and capable of opening the minds and hearts of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end."

(PORTA FIDEI, 15)



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“Jesus —
Mary —
I love you”

*Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha's
Final Words*

Photo by Jim McIntosh

Witnesses of Love

*Living signs of Christ's
presence in the world*

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656 - 1680)

When Kateri Tekakwitha is canonized by Benedict XVI on October 21, she will be the first Native American woman to be declared a Saint. She will join a select group of American saints including Saint Juan Diego and Elizabeth Ann Seton, (both Saints who will be featured in later bulletin articles during the Year of Faith). In her short life, she lived a deep Eucharistic spirituality.

Kateri's mother was a Christian Algonquin who had been kidnapped in a raid; her father, a Mohawk chief, allowed this wife to practice her faith quietly. In their village, now called Auriesville, west of Albany NY, several French Jesuit missionaries had been imprisoned, tortured and killed in the 1640s. The life and death of those Jesuits—including Isaac Jogues—made a deep impression on the Indian Christians.

Around 1660, when the girl was about four years old, smallpox struck the village. Her parents and infant brother died; she survived, but she was badly scarred and her vision damaged. People

called her Tekakwitha, which means “the one who feels her way.”

Tekakwitha was baptized Catherine—Kateri—when she was about 20. The Jesuit missionary was awed by her spirit of penance, and her hours of prayer in church near the Eucharist. The Mohawks scorned Christians, so Kateri and several others made the long journey to a Christian settlement near the St. Lawrence River. There Kateri and other young women lived in prayerfulness, penance, and service. Not permitted to join a religious congregation, Kateri lived as a consecrated virgin. Kateri died during Holy Week in 1680.

Catholics in the US celebrate Kateri's Feast Day on July 14. The Tekakwitha Conference (www.tekconf.org) provides information about about Kateri and her spirit. Shrines at Auriesville and Fonda, New York, and at Kahnawake, near Montreal, welcome those who wish to pilgrimage during this Year of Faith.

By Terrie Baldwin, Director of Evangelization

For Reflection

1. Has your faith ever called you to leave behind what was familiar or comfortable and enter into the unknown?
2. Have there been periods in life when you had to “feel your way”? How did your relationship with Christ help to do that?
3. In what ways during this year of faith can I deepen my devotion to Christ in the Eucharist?