

Year of Faith
Liturgical Minute No. 1
Pope Benedict XVI Declares Year of Faith

Pope Benedict XVI has declared that beginning October 11, 2012, and for the next 12 months, the Catholic Church will celebrate a Year of Faith. The purpose of the Year of Faith is to rediscover the rich heritage of our faith and renew our commitment to Christ in the Catholic Church so we may be more effective witnesses of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning date of our Year of Faith, October 11, 2012, is significant as it is the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In his Apostolic Letter announcing the Year of Faith, the Pope invites us to re-examine the contents of our Creed that we proclaim at Sunday Mass in order to help prompt us into a deeper understanding of the words on which the Church is built.

We read in Mark 16, that “By faith, the Apostles (and followers of Jesus) went out to the whole world, following the Jesus’ command to bring the Gospel to all creation, and they fearlessly proclaimed to all the joy of the resurrection.” Scripture also tells us that “Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received, and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy.”

Jesus has instructed us to build up His Church on earth. He has also assured us that He has given us everything we need to face this and all challenges.

As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we each have our own roles. As parents, we have an obligation to nurture and support our children and to teach them about the faith. As parishioners, we are to find ways to live out our faith in our parish communities. Our responsibility is clear — we must continue the mission of Jesus. When we fulfill our proper roles, we can make difference.

Ultimately, the pope is challenging us to rediscover our basic beliefs and rekindle our relationship with Jesus Christ. In order to do that during the Year of Faith, the Diocese of Austin and St. Joseph Catholic Church will provide many opportunities during Sunday Masses, on our Website, and special events to deepen our understanding of the faith and to live it more effectively. We hope that everyone will take full advantage of such resources, to first enrich their own faith, and then to share that faith with others.