

July 16, 2012

Dear Priests and PLCs:

Anniversaries are great times to celebrate the past and look forward with joy to the future. This year we celebrate two big anniversaries: the convening of the Second Vatican Council (50 years) as well as the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (20 years)—in many ways an outgrowth of the Council.

The Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict (October 11, 2012 - November 24, 2013) is all about capitalizing on these anniversaries to help the faithful grow in their faith in Jesus Christ and participation in His holy Catholic Church. While there are many ways you might observe this Year of Faith in your parish(es) I am asking that we unite as an Archdiocese in the process described below.

Briefly, I am inviting each parishioner to contribute to the writing of a pastoral resource called “10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith.” This is designed to help deepen each participant’s faith in Jesus Christ and appreciation of His Body—our Church.

The essential components of the process are as follows, with a specific timeline attached:

- This fall the faithful will be invited—through their pastors and additional parish leaders—to read, prayerfully reflect on and discuss the document *Lumen Gentium*, one of the most important documents of the Second Vatican Council.
- As fall progresses I am asking each parish to hold a town-hall meeting of sorts, in this case a facilitated discussion to surface “10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith.” Training for facilitators will be offered in a convenient central location.
- Each parish will then send seven representatives to a deanery meeting with a similar format and goal. Eventually each deanery will send seven representatives to an Archdiocesan gathering—again focused on a discussion of “10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith.”
- Input from all parish, deanery and Archdiocesan gatherings will be compiled to inform the homily at a Mass to mark the transition from a Year of Faith to a time of intense focus on the New Evangelization. Your parishioners’ input will also go toward promulgating a pastoral resource—10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith—that will be a practical tool for your local evangelization efforts.

Thus we will spend a period of time bolstering our own faith in Jesus Christ and love for His Bride, our Church, before directing the resultant energy toward reaching out to our neighbors in southern and central Indiana, inviting them to life in Christ—the new life offered to us through His great love.

More information will be coming your way in intervals. For now please note the timeline attached, discussing it with pertinent staff and parishioners, marking the dates on all applicable calendars. I am asking our Archdiocesan catechetical director to facilitate this united observance; you can address specific questions to him (kogorek@archindy.org) especially after you’ve received additional information describing aspects of this effort such as the discussion guide for *Lumen Gentium*, follow-up activities for

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parishioners once the parish meetings have concluded, and details about inviting the faithful to the Year-of-Faith-related Mass mentioned above.

I am confident that this united, Archdiocesan observance of the Year of Faith will complement your own efforts, capitalize on these key anniversaries to help draw people closer to Jesus Christ, and prepare us all to bring Him to others through the New Evangelization well in to the third millennium. With the love of a brother, I am,

Yours in Jesus,

Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne, SLD
Apostolic Administrator

Tentative Timeline for Year of Faith in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

September 29, 2012

--Training for those who will facilitate the 10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith sessions in their parishes. (Training will occur in a convenient central location TBA.)

October 11 to December 1, 2012

--Parish sessions occur per Bp. Coyne's letter. Bulletin announcements will be provided.

October 16, 2012 – Clergy Business Meeting (update for priests and PLCs)

February 18 to May 9, 2013

--Deanery sessions facilitated by Archdiocesan pastoral staff.

September 14, 2013

--Archdiocesan session (Again—a convenient central location TBA.)

Mid-October – late-November 2013

(specific date and location to be determined)

--Mass for concluding Year of Faith. Homily informed by compiled input (above).

November 21-23, 2013 – NCYC (A great way for teens to celebrate the Year of Faith.)

January 1, 2014

--Pastoral resource 10 Things We Want You to Know About the Catholic Faith is promulgated along with a formal call for 147 parish evangelization teams guided by our Archdiocesan Evangelization Commission.