

**TALK #01 – “YEAR OF FAITH” BY MSGR EUGENE VAZ AT CPS SHENTON ON 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012**

**PORTA FIDEI (THE DOOR OF FAITH)**

**Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XVI**

**Preparing the Universal Church for the Year of Faith 11 Oct 2012 – 24 Nov 2013**

**The Letter is dated 11 Oct 2011**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Lord, I believe: I wish to believe in Thee.

Lord, let my faith be full and unreserved, and let it penetrate my thought, my way of judging Divine things and human things.

Lord, let my faith be joyful and give peace and gladness to my spirit, and dispose it for prayer with God and conversation with men, so that the inner bliss of its fortunate possession may shine forth in sacred and secular conversation.

Lord, let my faith be humble and not presume to be based on the experience of my thought and of my feeling; but let it surrender to the testimony of the Holy Spirit, and not have any better guarantee than in docility to Tradition and to the authority of the magisterium of the Holy Church. Through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

The Year of Faith will be a propitious occasion for the faithful to understand more profoundly that the foundation of Christian faith is the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.

Founded on the encounter with the Risen Christ, faith can be rediscovered in its wholeness and all its splendour.

In our days too faith is a gift to rediscover, to cultivate and to bear witness to because the Lord grants each one of us to live the beauty and joy of being Christians.

The beginning of the Year of Faith coincides with the anniversaries of 2 great events:

- the 50<sup>th</sup> of the opening of Vat II (1962)
- the 20<sup>th</sup> of the promulgation of CCC (1992).

**VATICAN COUNCIL II (1962-1965)**

According to Pope John XXIII, the Council wanted to transmit doctrine, pure and whole, without attenuations or misrepresentations, in such a way that this sure and immutable teaching, which must be respected faithfully, is elaborated and presented in a way which corresponds to the need of our time.

“Christ is the Light of nations” (LG 1).

Beginning with the light of Christ, which purifies, illuminates and sanctifies in the celebration of the sacred liturgy (SC) and with his divine word (DV), the Council wanted to elaborate on the intimate nature of the Church (LG) and its relationship with the contemporary world (GS).

SC:	Sacrosanctum Concilium	]	
DV:	Dei Verbum	]	the 4 pillars
LG :	Lumen Gentium	]	of the
GS:	Gaudium et Spes	]	Council

After the Council, the Church – under the sure guidance of the Magisterium and in continuity of the whole Tradition – set about ensuring the reception and application of the teaching of the Council in all its richness.

To assist in the correct reception of the Council, the Popes have frequently convoked the Synod of Bishops, first instituted by the Servant of God, Paul VI, in 1965, providing the Church with clear guidance through the various post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortations.

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| 1967 | The preservation and strengthening of the Catholic Faith, its integrity, vigour, development, historical and doctrinal coherence. |
| 1971 | The ministerial priesthood and justice in the world.  |
| 1974 | Evangelisation in the modern world.   |
| 1977 | Catechesis in our time.   |
| 1980 | The Christian Family.   |
| 1983 | Penance and reconciliation in the mission of the Church.  |
| 1987 | The vocation and mission of the laity in the Church and in the world.   |
| 1991 | The formation of priests in actual circumstances.   |
| 1994 | Consecrated life and its mission in the Church and in the world.  |
| 2001 | The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the hope of the world.  |
| 2005 | The Eucharist: source and summit of the life and mission of the Church.   |
| 2008 | The Word of God in the life and mission of the Church.  |
| 2012 | The New Evangelisation for the Transmission of the Christian Faith.   |

From the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI has worked decisively for a correct understanding of the Council.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in the same vein, is both an authentic fruit of Vatican Council II and a tool for aiding in its reception.

**The 4 parts of the CCC:**

- The Creed
- The Sacred Liturgy, with pride of place given to the sacraments
- The Christian way of life, explained beginning with the Ten Commandments
- Christian prayer.

- **FOR REFLECTION AND ACTION**
- **1. The Year of faith is intended to contribute to a renewed conversion to the Lord Jesus and to the rediscovery of faith, so that the members of the Church will be credible and joy-filled witnesses to the Risen Lord in the world of today – capable of leading those many people who are seeking it to the “door of faith”.**
- **2. This “door” opens wide man’s gaze to Jesus Christ, present among us always, until the end of the age (Mt 28:20).**
- **3. Jesus shows us how the art of living is learned in an intense relationship with him.**
- **4. Through his love, Jesus Christ attracts to himself the people of every generation: in every age he convokes the Church, entrusting her with the proclamation of the Gospel by a mandate that is ever new.**
- **5. Today, too, there is a need for a stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelisation in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith.**