

**YEAR OF FAITH
11 OCT 2012 – 24 NOV 2013**



PORTA FIDEI: DOOR OF FAITH

Apostolic Letter of Pope Benedict XVI

Dated 11 Oct 2011

Preparing the Universal Church for the Year of Faith

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.

Porta Fidei No.1

The “door of faith” (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church.

Door of Faith – Acts 14:27:

“On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans”.

Door of Faith – 2 Cor 2:12

“When I went up to Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, and the door was wide open for my work there in the Lord.....”

Door of Faith – Col 4:3

“Pray for us especially, asking God to show us opportunities for announcing the message and proclaiming the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains; pray that I may proclaim it as clearly as I ought”.

Door is the Threshold to be crossed - an entrance.

“Door of Faith” implies crossing spiritual threshold.

“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”.

Door of Faith is God’s work.

- God works with the proclaimer
- God moves the heart of the hearer towards grace
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Entering the Door = Spiritual Lifetime Journey.

The Journey

- Begins with Baptism (Rom 6:4), through which we can address God as Father.
- Ends with the passage through death to eternal life, fruit of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, whose will it was, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, to draw those who believe in him into his own glory (Jn 17:22).
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Daily entering the Door of Faith - living the Trinitarian love

“To profess faith in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is to believe in one God who is love (1 Jn 4:8):

- The Father, who in the fullness of time sent his Son for our salvation;
- Jesus Christ, who in the mystery of his death and resurrection redeemed the world;

The Holy Spirit, who leads the Church across the centuries as we await the Lord’s glorious return.

Porta Fidei No.2

The need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ

“The Church as a whole and all her pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance”.

“Whereas in the past it was possible to recognise a unitary cultural matrix, broadly accepted in its appeal to the content of faith and the values inspired by it, today this no longer seems to be the case in large swathes of society, because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people”.

Porta Fidei No.3

“We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden (Mt 5:13-16)”.

“The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within him (Jn 4:14).

“We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples (Jn 6:51)”.

“Indeed, the teaching of Jesus still resounds in our day with the same power: ‘Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life’ (Jn 6:27)”.

“The question posed by his listeners is the same that we ask today: ‘What must we do, to be doing the works of God?’ (Jn 6:28)”.

“We know Jesus’ reply: ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent’ (Jn 6:29)”.

“Belief in Jesus Christ, then, is the way to arrive definitively at salvation”.

Porta Fidei No. 4

“In the light of all this, I have decided to announce a Year of Faith”.

“This will be a good opportunity to usher the whole Church into a time of particular reflection and rediscovery of the faith”

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**Apostolic Letter Motu Proprio data Porta Fidei of the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI
for the Indiction
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