

**Let us Enter the Door of Faith
Circular 2012-23**

To: All Parish Priests, Heads of Catholic Schools, including Congregational and Diocesan, Local Religious Superiors of Men and Women, Diocesan Heads of Mandated Organizations, Associations and Ecclesial Movements, including the Charismatic and Trans-parochial Communities:

Peace to all people of Good Will!

Last 11 October 2011, the Holy Father Benedict XVI issued *Motu Proprio*, his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, declaring a Year of Faith in the Universal Church from 11 October 2012 to 24 November 2013 (Solemnity of Christ, Universal King). The date 11 October 2012 marks the 50th Year of the Opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and the 20th Year of the Publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Last 11 October 2012, the Holy Father officially opened The Year of Faith for the Universal Church in Rome in the presence of the Synod Fathers attending the XII General Assembly of the Ordinary Synod of Bishops on The New Evangelization.

In response to the invitation of the Holy Father, this Particular Church of Novaliches, on its first decade of its establishment as a Diocese, will celebrate the Year of Faith “in a worthy and fitting year.” I, therefore, call on all of you to the formal opening of the Year of Faith in this Local Church on **30 November 2012 (Friday) with a Concelebrated Mass at our Cathedral at 5:00 PM**. Each Parish, each Catholic School, each Religious Community, each Mandated Organization, Association, Ecclesial Movements and Communities are to **send a delegation to our Formal Opening**.

Our Diocesan Year of Faith will run throughout the Year 2013, ending it formally on the midnight Masses of 31 December 2013 in all the Parishes of the Diocese.

The Pope’s reason for gathering together God’s People in a Year of Faith is the observable fact everywhere of a “**profound crisis of faith** that has affected many people.” **In the past**, it was possible to presuppose Faith and its contents as well as the values derived from Christ and his Gospel as the reason behind our social, cultural, and political involvements as Christians.

Today, such presuppositions can no longer be taken for granted, they **are even openly denied!**

So as Pastors like Christ **we must draw our people out of this desert to the source of Life**, Truth and Freedom who is **Jesus himself who feeds us with the Word of God**, faithfully handed down for us by the Church, **and with the Bread of Life, offered as food** for his disciples on our way to God who is Love. Let us as Pastors do this from this Year of Faith on and beyond, for this is our mission shared by Christ to His Church to which we, the People of God in Novaliches, belong.

During this Year of Faith, **the following activities** are asked and mandated:

1. Individual and/or Group **Pilgrimages of the Faithful** in the following Diocesan Shrines:
 - The Cathedral Shrine of the Good Shepherd
 - Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy
 - St. Peter-Shrine of Leaders
 - *Santuario de San Vicente de Paul*-Shrine of the Poor
 - The Major Basilicas of the Lord or of Mary in Rome and/or in the Holy Land for those who can afford.

Hence from now on the yearly Excursions or Field Trips of Parishes and Catholic Schools in the Diocese must always include a visit to one of this Shrines or a Shrine in our nice and beautiful Country.

2. **Weekly Catechism** (*Katekismo ni Father*) by the Bishop in his Cathedral and by the Parish Priest and his Team of Catechists/Leaders in the Parish Churches on the most convenient time and day of the week using as Text the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
3. **Once a month Study Day** on the 16 Documents of Vatican II at St. Peter Palace of the Rock by the Bishop and invited speakers from 9:00 AM to 12: noon every 2nd Saturday of the month starting December 2012.
4. **Bible Class** by the Bishop in his Cathedral and by the Parish Priest in his Parish Church on a most convenient time and day of the week using as Text the Bible. This Bible Class is open to other people of different persuasions within the parish.
5. **Film clips, and/or stories of the Lives of the Saints** especially those celebrated within the week and/or the Lives of Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila or San Pedro Calungsod of the Visayas and other Servants of God, will or can take the place of the optional weekday homilies.
6. The Local Choirs give **Faith Concerts** in the Vicariates/Parishes on themes contained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church or the Compendium of the Catechism or the YouCat.
7. **Testimonies of Faith** by personages in the Parish from different professions including the Theater and the Arts.
Guide Question: How do you practice your Faith as _____?
8. **A solemn ecumenical celebration/service** participated by various Religious Faith Groups in the parish and/or in the vicariate ending with a Common Profession of Faith (Credo of God's People).

9. **Easy Access to all the Sacraments**, especially Baptism and Confirmation.
10. **Holding of Parish Missions, Exhibits of Church Patrimonies.**

St. Paul's last advice to Timothy to "continue in the truths you were taught and firmly believe... since you were a child," (2 Tim. 3:14-15) is also directed to us. These truths serve as lifelong guide to perceive, ever anew, that God works for us and in us and remind us as well that we are the living signs of the presence of the Risen Lord in the world. What the world needs today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life in God. May these abound as fruits of this time of grace! This we ask our Lord through the intercession of Mary, mother of God and our Mother too.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, 5 November 2012.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Jerome U. Rosalinda
Chancellor