



Catholic Apostolate Center

Reviving Faith • Rekindling Charity • Forming Apostles

February 25th, 2013 - Second Week of Lent

Issue: 18



Catholic Apostolate Center Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

Greetings!

"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 Jn 4:16).

With these words of the First Letter of St. John, Pope Benedict XVI began his first Encyclical Letter, [Deus Caritas Est \(God is Love\)](#). Throughout his pontificate he has returned to this theme of love or charity which was also very much present in his writings as a young theologian. The theme has been consistent through his life and his [Lenten Message for 2013](#) underscores the ramifications of living charity by quoting a significant and central passage from his first Encyclical:

Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction ... Since God has first loved us (cf. 1 Jn 4:10), love is now no longer a mere 'command'; it is the response to the gift of love with which God draws near to us ([Deus Caritas Est, n. 1](#)).

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Wisdom from the Holy Father

"There are times when the burden of need and our own limitations might tempt us to become discouraged. But precisely then we are helped by the knowledge that, in the end, we are only instruments in the Lord's hands."

-Pope Benedict XVI

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A personal encounter or friendship with Christ by all the faithful is not simply what Pope Benedict XVI desires for the Year of Faith, but as the way of the New Evangelization. How does this happen? Again, as he did at the Synod on the New Evangelization and throughout his pontificate, he underscores the "indissoluble relationship of faith and charity." He echoes and refines his teaching in Porta Fidei (the document which inaugurated the Year of Faith), when he offers this in his Lenten message:

Faith is knowing the truth and adhering to it (cf. 1 Tim 2:4); charity is "walking" in the truth (cf. Eph 4:15). Through faith we enter into friendship with the Lord, through charity this friendship is lived and cultivated (cf. Jn 15:14ff).

In the din of media new and old incessantly analyzing the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, few have bothered to mention, except those of faith, that what he did was an act in response to his faith in Christ and his love for Christ's Church. Pope Benedict XVI is simply living by this humble act of faith and charity that he has consistently taught.

We are in thanksgiving for his great ministry over these last years and our prayers are with him. May we continue to draw from his teachings and live more deeply our friendship with Christ in faith and charity.

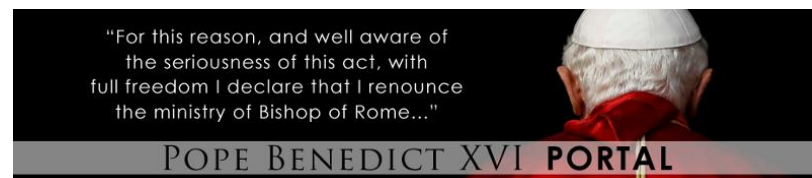
May the charity of Christ urge you on!

In God, the Infinite Love,

Fr. Frank

Pope Benedict XVI Portal

Since our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, announced his resignation two weeks ago from today, we've been diligently compiling resources and news items to share with you. These many documents, videos and articles can be accessed through our Pope Benedict XVI Portal. Please take a moment to visit this webpage and we hope you find answers to any questions you may have!



Visit Our Catholic News Service
Multimedia Player for the Latest News
and Interviews Regarding the Papal
Transition



Pope Benedict XVI and the New Evangelization

One of the great legacies that Pope Benedict XVI leaves is his efforts to re-propose the Gospel through the New Evangelization. Equipping the faithful for effective catechesis in order to form apostles has been a great part of his mission and one that we share in this ministry as well. On the New Evangelization page of our website we've highlighted some of Pope Benedict XVI's talks regarding this topic and we encourage you read and reflect on his messages. Additionally, be sure to visit our Year of Faith portal to read the Holy Father's Apostolic Letter, "Porta Fidei" which outlines the importance of this occasion in the life of the Church and its importance in light of the New Evangelization.

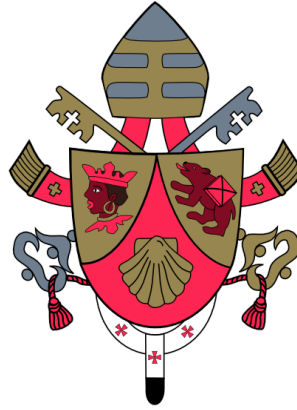


YEAR OF FAITH²⁰¹²₂₀₁₃



Who is Pope Benedict XVI?

Take a look at the Vatican's official webpage for the Holy Father to find his biographical information as well as a vast database of his talks, homilies and writings. In particular you can find full transcripts of the three papal encyclicals published during his pontificate.



Fr. Frank Donio, S.A.C., Director of the Catholic Apostolate Center, and Barbara Humphrey McCrabb, Assistant Director for Higher Education at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will be presenting on Authentic Collaboration: Meaningful Engagement of Emerging Adults in Ministry and Leadership".

[Click here for more information on the Mid-Atlantic Congress!](#)

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