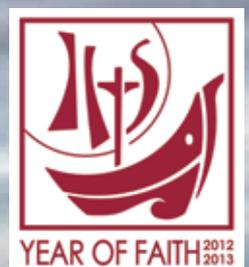


ARCHDIOCESAN
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Youth+

*Year
of Faith*
RESOURCE GUIDE
for Youth Groups



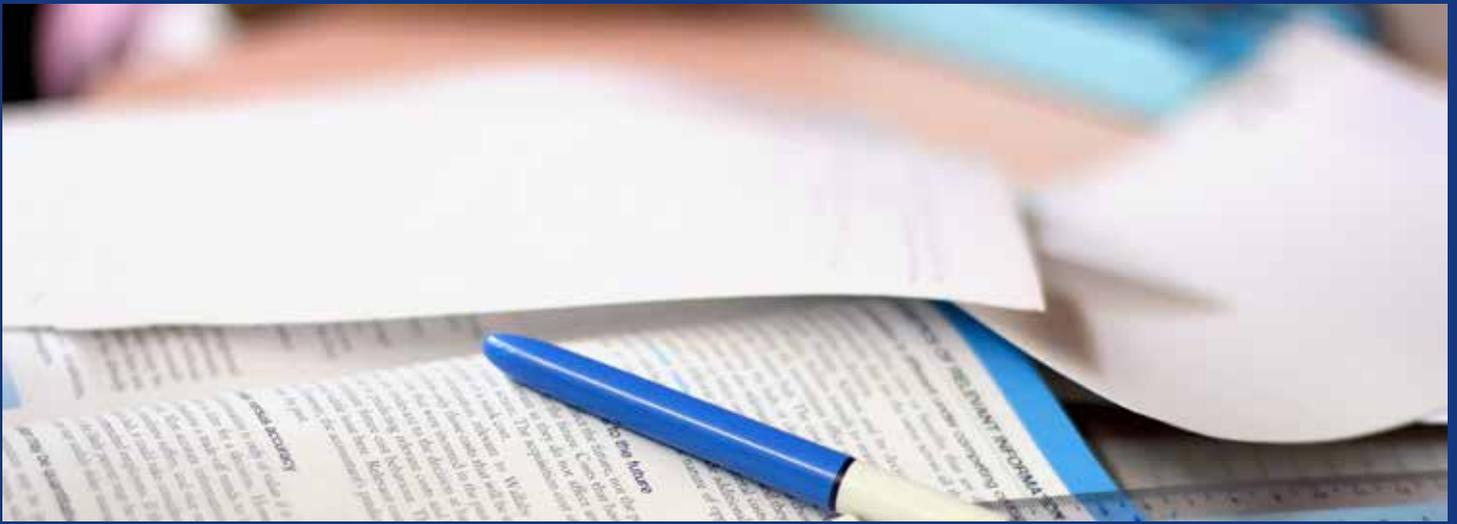


The Year of Faith calls us all to spend a whole year deepening our faith as an active commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI made his call through his Apostolic letter *Porta Fidei* in Oct 2011. (Full text here: www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en/annus-fidei/lettera-apostolica--porta-fidei-.html)

So the question we have is how do we renew the faith of the universal Church? The Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation has created an excellent resource guide called *Faith Matters...* it reviews a variety of resources that can help you look deeper into your faith. So let's put some of these ideas into action **and more!** To download a copy of *Faith Matters*, head to: www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/Year-of-Faith/Resources



You can use *Faith Matters* along with this guide to give you loads of tips to implement ideas for your youth group.



Here are some ways to study your faith:

Take a deeper look into the Vatican II documents

You can download them from the official Ecumenical Council of Vatican II website at:

www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en/credo/conciolio-ecumenico-vaticano-ii.html

Or you can borrow a printed copy from our Youth Ministry Library via:

www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Youth-Ministry-Library



Idea: Some of the documents may seem a little long. For a group activity, try selecting one document and breaking into smaller groups. Each group can dissect a passage in the document and report back to the larger group.



The Creed

Recited weekly at Sunday Mass, the Creed holds great importance to all Catholics. It is the profession of our faith. And in this Year of Faith, its words hold even more significance.



Idea: Try reciting it at the start of your sessions or spend some time breaking it down line by line and discuss it. You could try using *Lectio Divina* to help you study. The Nicene Creed and the Apostle's Creed are available in full at: www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en/annus-fidei/professione-di-fede.html

Fact



What is Lectio Divina? Lectio Divina (Latin for divine reading) is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word. It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the Living Word. Traditionally Lectio Divina has four separate steps: read, meditate, pray and contemplate. First a passage of Scripture is read, and then its meaning is reflected upon, often by re-reading the text over a few times. This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God.



Study the Faith

The Year of Faith encourages us to gain a better understanding of our Catholic faith and traditions. One of the best ways that we can do that is with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Now there are a few versions floating about... The first one that came out is the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) which was convened in 1985 by Pope John Paul II to mark 20 years of the Vatican II Council but it was finalised and released 10 years later. This version probably isn't the most youth friendly but there are two other versions which are easier to follow. They are the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2005) which has a question and answer format or the even more accessible YOUUCAT which is the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church – in a simple to follow question and answer format. You could look at studying parts of the YOUUCAT in your youth group. A copy of the YOUUCAT is available from the AOY Youth Ministry library for you to borrow.

If your youth group is made up of younger ages, there is a Children's Catechetical Program that has been written. Parts of the program are available for FREE to download or all can be purchased at a small price. <http://comefollowme.info/sample-page/year-1/downloads/>



Idea: You could choose a section/part of the YOUUCAT and study it in small groups. Or you could get a few copies of the YOUUCAT and have groups race to find the answers to questions that are read aloud!



Pilgrimage

Throughout the Year of Faith, all of the faithful who are truly repentant, have received the Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion, and who pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, may receive a Plenary Indulgence for themselves or for the deceased. Every time they go as pilgrims to a specific church and participate in a sacred function or at least pause in recollection for a suitable length of time, concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any form, invocations to Our Lady or the Holy Apostles or Patron Saints, they receive this indulgence.



Idea: Check out page 6 of *Faith Matters*. It gives you a great list of local churches that your group can pilgrimage to and receive a Plenary Indulgence.

Fact



What is an Indulgence? Indulgences are the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. This means that an indulgence removes the debt of penance that we owe for the effects of our sins. Indulgences are granted through the ministry of the Church which, as the dispenser of the grace of redemption, distributes the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints to us.

*Archbishop Hart's Pastoral Letter
on the Year of Faith.*



Multimedia resources

Why I Believe is a series of short video clips exploring the theme 'I Believe' produced by the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation. People of various ages and backgrounds reflect on questions such as "Where has your faith come from?", "Who has influenced your faith life?" and "Why is your faith so important in today's society?" There is an introductory video clip which invites viewers to explore the deep conviction that is our Catholic faith and then every few weeks a new clip is added with a member of our Catholic community within the Archdiocese of Melbourne being interviewed. Check out the clips here: www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/Year-of-Faith/Resources

The Southwark Catholic Youth Service (in the UK) is putting out weekly videos on *Inspiring Faith* to celebrate and recognise the Year of Faith. Their videos can be viewed at: <http://vimeo.com/channels/inspiringfaith>



Idea: You could get your group to present its own clips live in your youth group!

Archbishop Hart's *Pentecost Letter to Youth* also comes as a nice two minute multimedia version found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OFimvjAgDY



Idea: This could be a great way to open a Year of Faith youth group session!

The YOUCAT website has a selection of inspiring videos on all different topics and styles and languages! Check them out at: www.youcat.org/glauben/video-messages.html



More multimedia resources

One of our personal favourites is a young video blogger from the US who goes by the name *ShelsCatholic*, there is a range of videos on her channel and all of them are very youthful and very passionate. Not all of her topics are certainly going to apply easily to the Year of Faith but they are all certainly about the Catholic faith and worth a look at: www.youtube.com/user/ShelsCatholic?feature=watch

The Catholicism DVD series

As discussed on page 17 of *Faith Matters*, the Catholicism series is easy to engage with and follow and is a ready-made resource for youth groups. The Archdiocesan Office for Youth has a copy in its Youth Ministry Resource Library complete with the study guide. www.cam.org.au/youth/Resources/Youth-Ministry-Library



Idea: Borrow them from the AOY and run some sessions on the series using the study guide available with the DVD set!

Music

The Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation has commissioned a new hymn for the Year of Faith and it's available for free from their website here: www.cam.org.au/evangelisation/Year-of-Faith/Year-of-Faith-Hymn.aspx



Idea: As was the intention when it was commissioned, you can use it in Sunday liturgies to help celebrate the Year of Faith.



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