



Archdiocese of Newark
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 15, 2013

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Catholic Church in the United States invites us to focus attention on the Catechetical ministry as we celebrate Catechetical Sunday 2013. We do this employing the theme established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for this year's observance: "Open the Door of Faith." This theme, of course, reminds us of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's message "Porta Fidei" with which he inaugurated the Year of Faith that began on October 11, 2012 and that will conclude on the Solemnity of Christ the King which the Church celebrates on November 24, 2013.

As he proclaimed the Year of Faith, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reiterated the call of Blessed John Paul II to a New Evangelization and recalled both the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council as well as the Twentieth Anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The New Evangelization calls each of us to renew our dedication as faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to our faith in a manner which is "new in its ardor, methods and expression." (*Ecclesia in America*, 66) Our Catechetical Sunday theme reminds us of the experience of the early Church as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles: "When they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles" (Acts 14:27). Let us be reminded that it is by the initiative of God that faith comes to us and by which faith is built up. At the same time, let us also recall the important role catechesis plays in deepening the gift of faith and helping it to mature:

Catechesis aims to bring about in the believer an ever more mature faith in Jesus Christ, a deeper knowledge and love of his person and message, and a firm commitment to follow him. (NDC p. 54)

I wish to join with the faithful of the Archdiocese, as Archbishop of this local Church, in recognizing those who give of themselves so generously in fulfilling the critically important ministry of catechesis for the Church in our parishes and schools. I extend my gratitude and that of the whole Church of Newark to our catechists, our parish catechetical leaders, our Catholic school teachers and administrators and pledge to them our support and our prayers.

May God richly bless you for all you do for God's people in the Church of Newark.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

✠Most Reverend John J. Myers
Archbishop of Newark

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Archdiocesan Center