

is with you in every circumstance, offering his strength, his wisdom, and his healing. God is not limited to cathedrals, churches, or shrines. He is with you in your home, at work or school, as you drive, run errands, or sit in a doctor's office—wherever you go. Let him tell you deep within your heart, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Pray: "Jesus, open my ears so that I can hear your call for my life. Come and empower me to remain faithful to you. I believe you can fill my every need. Help me to receive all that you have for me. Help me to keep my eyes open for your presence and my heart fixed on you."

5 "Get up, he is calling you." (Mark 10:49)

Reflection: On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus calls Bartimaeus, a blind beggar—and all of us—to his side. Jesus has come to rescue his people. He will leave no one behind, not even this blind man—and not even us! Is your understanding of his call to you too limited? Don't give up because of obstacles and difficulties. Be persistent. Jesus will remove what needs to be removed, strengthen what needs to be strengthened, and give you the grace to follow him. It's not where you've come from but where you are heading that counts. If you only knew how much God loves you! So take courage and get up. Jesus is calling you!

Pray: "Father, I believe. Help my unbelief! I want to draw closer to you! Come into my heart today. Broaden my vision a little more each day so that I can cooperate with your vast, surprising, and awesome grace. Open my eyes to those who need your love so that I can love and care for them as you do."

Prayer Intentions for Men and Women in Challenging Situations

- That all will know that their heavenly Father loves them unconditionally, and that there is nothing they have done that he doesn't long to forgive them for.
- That all will be able to find a time for daily prayer and reflection on Scripture and so experience God's love, mercy, and healing.
- That spouses, children, and parents of absent loved ones will experience God's presence and comfort, and that their practical needs will be met.
- That all priests, chaplains, and counselors will receive wisdom for their ministry to God's beloved sons and daughters.

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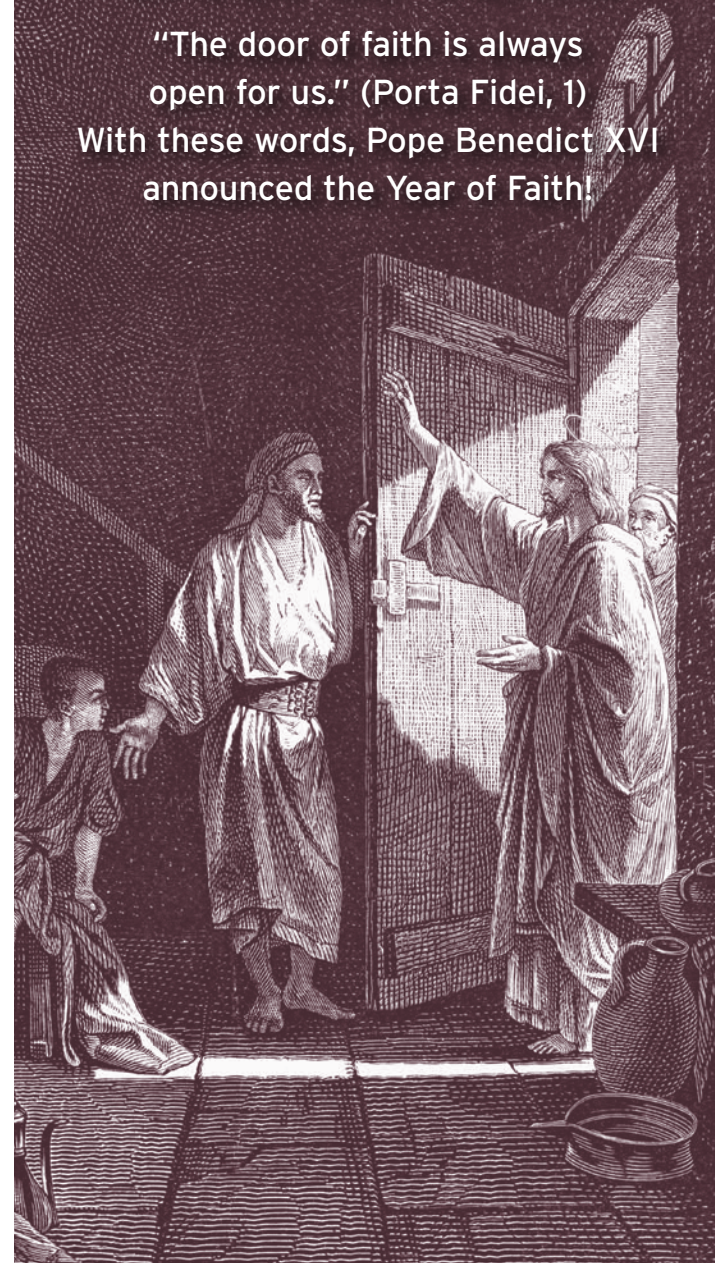
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Walk Through God's Open Door of Faith!

"The door of faith is always
open for us." (Porta Fidei, 1)
With these words, Pope Benedict XVI
announced the Year of Faith!



The Year of Faith is an opportunity for all of us to experience a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments.

During this Year of Faith, God is inviting all of us to pass through the “door of faith” each and every day. That’s because Jesus wants you to experience his presence! He loves you! He wants your Christian life to be an exciting journey—one that leads you right into the heart of his love.

We are all familiar with Jesus’ words to the blind beggar Bartimaeus: “What do you want me to do for you?” (Mark 10:51). During this Year of Faith, he is asking each of you the same question. Take a few moments right now to think about this. Jesus longs to see you throw aside anything that limits your expectations. Jesus wants to deepen your relationship with him as well as your faith and confidence in him. Jesus wants to heal your heart of doubts, hurts, fears, unforgiveness, and anger, and fill it with the fire of his love.

As you continue reading, you will find five short reflections. Each one includes a Scripture verse to meditate on and a prayer to get you talking with God. You may want to spend one day or multiple days or even a whole week on each one.

1 You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

Reflection: As you reflect on this Scripture passage, ask yourself these questions: “Do I believe that God wants to have a more intimate relationship with me? Do I believe that I can ‘find’ God?” Sit quietly and ask God to reveal himself.

Pray: “Father, I want to seek you with all my heart. I want to walk through the open door of faith. Help me to find you. I want to believe that you hold me in your loving hands! Teach me to trust and hope in you—even in my darkest hours. Show me what is holding me back from taking the next step. Give me the grace to rely on you today with all my heart. Father, I want to keep learning more and more about you. Help me to keep an open mind and an open heart.”

2 May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith. (Ephesians 3:17)

Reflection: Christ is asking you to be willing to be changed by his grace and accept what he has done for you through his death and resurrection. Christ himself has been tested just as we are tested, so he knows what we go through in our lives. He feels all our joys and triumphs, and he shares in our times of pain and doubt. He is with us even when we think we are all alone, pouring his grace upon us even when we don’t feel his presence.

Pray: “Jesus, thank you for the opportunity to get to know you better! There are so many things in my life that stand in the way of getting to know you that such a relationship often seems like a distant dream. Take my hand today and strengthen me. Teach me to remain steadfast. May I never lose sight of you! Make my faith strong enough to take hold of you. Come live in my heart.”

3 Let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. (Hebrews 4:16)

Reflection: Ask yourself, “Do I have confidence that I can truly approach Jesus’ ‘throne of grace’”? Jesus wants to reach out to you as you open your heart in prayer. You don’t have to muster confidence to come to him; he will give it to you as a gift.

Jesus is not one to give out harsh punishments or make impossible demands. Rather, he offers love and mercy at every turn. He sees your weaknesses, and yet he will never abandon you! Meet with a priest to confess your sins and receive the healing and forgiveness that come to you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is no sin, no matter how big, that God can’t forgive.

Pray: “Father, I approach your throne with humility and hope, knowing that you wait for me. I don’t always get it right, but I do want to live in a way that pleases you, especially in my relationship with you and with all those around me. Help me to believe in your love for me. I repent where I have failed you. Come and set me free.”

4 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

Reflection: Day after day Jesus is standing at the door of your heart, asking you to let him in so that he can work in you and through you. He wants you to believe that he