



Office of Faith Formation

Pastoral Center
Diocese of Amarillo

Newsletter

December, 2015



*Advent is the Way
To Our Savior*

*Jubilee
Year of Mercy*

The Diocese of Amarillo Prepares for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Bishop Patrick Zurek locked one of the Cathedral doors during Holy Mass on November 7. The door will reopen on December 8, to signify the beginning of the JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY. This is a special year proclaimed by Pope Francis. This Holy Door represents Jesus Christ, the unique Savior of humanity. This special Door symbolizes Christ as the way to the Father. In John's Gospel, Jesus says: "I am the gate for the sheep... Whoever enters through me will be saved."(Jn.10:8-9)

Again, "No one comes to me." (Jn.14:6b) Pope Francis has also requested that eventually, St. Mary's Cathedral Door. The photo on this page represents Christ, as we walk through it, we should do so with the firm conviction of committing ourselves to a deeper conversion of mind and heart. Going through the Holy Door gives us the opportunity to invoke the Holy Spirit to help us change and become more like Christ. This special Grace called an Indulgence will assist our pilgrimage toward our salvation. Ex-



planation of Indulgence will be explained as we move into the Year of Mercy. As we approach this JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY, let us be mindful of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as we live our faith.

Corporal Works of Mercy

- To feed the hungry
- To give drink to the thirsty
- To clothe the naked
- To shelter the homeless
- To visit the sick
- To visit the imprisoned
- To bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- To instruct the ignorant
- To counsel the doubtful
- To admonish sinners
- To bear wrongs patiently
- To forgive offences willingly
- To comfort the afflicted
- To pray for the living and the dead

Advent is here! Please remind your students about the Season of Advent and the Advent Wreath. We do not want to miss the opportunity to share our faith and the need to prepare for the **coming of Jesus into our hearts.** I am sure you will find information in the manuals that you are using for your classes. Perhaps, all the catechists in your parish can work together to make Advent significant and rich in meaning and in action!



Reminder

Important dates:

- *Rite of Election—February 14, 2016, St. Mary’s Cathedral, 2:30pm
- *Diocesan Adult Confirmation Retreat—March 19, 2016, St. Mary’s Cathedral, 10:00am —5:00pm, including Mass with Bishop Zurek at 4:00pm
- *Chrism Mass—March 22, 2016, —St. Mary’s Cathedral, 7:00pm
- *Please consult your Pastor about the Sacrament of Confirmation for the Year 2016.

Pope Francis proclaims a Year of Mercy from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016

More information will be forthcoming as the year progresses. In the meanwhile, you can locate information on the Vatican website , Bishops’ website.—usccb.org and our Diocesan Website.



Thank you for sending in the October Annual Faith Formation Report. God bless you.

A question: What are the requirements of a sponsor for Baptism and Confirmation?

Sponsor:

- *must have completed the sixteenth year and be sufficiently mature for the responsibility;
- *be a Catholic who has been confirmed, has already received First Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with faith and the role to be undertaken;
- *may not be one of the candidate’s parent;
- *if married, they should have been married in the Church, attend Sunday Mass, regularly and receive Holy Communion;
- *not be prohibited by Canon Law from exercising the role of sponsor.

(Canon Law: 893 and 874)

A Time of Gratitude for Catechists

Thank you for your gift to the Church as a Catechist;
Thank you for your willingness to share the Word of God with
the Students in your care;

Thank you for the many ways that you reach out
to those students who need you as they
prepare for daily life as a Catholic with
Hope and Faith in God;

Thank you for your support for one another as a
community of believers rooted in Jesus Christ;
Thank you for your leadership and encouragement as
ministers to God's children and youth.

And with a grateful heart, I thank you for the Spirit of
Cooperation, Support and Enthusiasm and
for your assistance to the Office of Faith Formation.
Together, all is done in His Name!

May God bless each of you.
Sister Janet, SSND

