

50th Anniversary of Second Vatican Council

Bishops from 116 countries gathered in Rome for the opening of the Second Vatican Council on October 11, 1962. This year, the 50th anniversary of the council is marked by the inauguration of the Year of Faith by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2012. The council's main focus was on the church. The church is a pilgrim people of God on a journey of faith, ever renewing and purifying itself. The council wanted to reinvigorate church's life by rediscovering the riches of its biblical, patristic [teachings of the Fathers of the church] and theological roots. The council initiated discussions on dignity of the human person, religious liberty, ecumenism, plight of the poor and an agenda for a united peaceful world. The council has also set in motion a vision for a church, that would be a catalyst of change in the world, offering gospel remedies for the ailments of the world.

In this Year of Faith our parishes will have opportunities to actively participate in renewal programs: there will be two parish missions in April and May 2013; I am looking forward to form small bible study/faith sharing groups; these groups will start studying materials on 'Living the Eucharist', beginning Lent 2013. Different parish groups could organize one day retreats, seminars on faith related topics, pilgrimages etc. to get more involved in the 'Year of Faith' celebrations. I also welcome your ideas and recommendations to make this year of faith a renewing and unifying faith experience for all our parishioners.

Father Jose