

May 10, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As many of you are aware, beginning on October 11, 2012, the Church throughout the world will inaugurate the celebration of a Year of Faith. This special celebration, called for by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, offers all of us an opportunity to reflect upon and in many ways to rediscover the power and beauty of our Catholic Faith.

Part of the celebration of the Year of Faith will involve a commitment to new efforts of evangelization, aimed at a reinvigorated communication of the Faith, especially to those who have drifted away from the Church. We are being asked to invite those who might have fallen away not only to return to the Church but also to discover in the Church the immeasurable riches of the love of God, celebrated in the sacraments and professed and lived out in the daily pilgrimage of faith we are making towards the heavenly Kingdom, the house of our gracious Father.

This upcoming Year of Faith will also involve renewed efforts at catechizing the whole Body of Christ. You, who work in collaboration with the pastors of the Church, know the pressing need to hand on our Faith in an integral, comprehensive and clear way, in order that all who are present in our parish religious education programs and Catholic schools may have the opportunity to enter into a living communion with Christ Jesus, to believe in Him and His saving Word, and thus to have life in His name (cf. Jn. 20:31). You also know the need to assure sound teaching in our catechetical programs so that our children and young people may truly be formed as authentic disciples of the Lord Jesus.

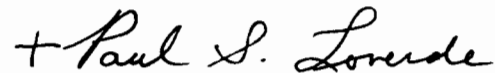
“As chief catechist in the diocese, the bishop is responsible for the total catechetical mission of the local church” (*National Directory for Catechesis*, 54). This aspect of my ministry is one I share with all who teach and form our youth. In order that we may work together to transmit the Faith, I hereby establish, as diocesan policy, that every catechist, together with their aides (if any), publicly make an annual Profession of Faith according to the attached formula. It would seem that the most fitting moment to do so would be on Catechetical Sunday each year, collectively at one of the parish Masses in the presence of the pastor (or another priest of the parish) and the faithful gathered to celebrate the Eucharist. If an individual catechist is not present at this Mass on Catechetical Sunday, he or she is to make the Profession of Faith at another opportune time, as close to the beginning of the catechetical year as possible and in the presence of the pastor or another priest of the parish. The signed copies of the Profession of

Faith will be kept at each parish. This policy will take effect on September 16, 2012 and will remain in place unless or until it is revoked by the Diocesan Bishop.

With you, I give thanks for the generous commitment of time, talent and energy shown by all who offer themselves for service as catechists in our parish religious education programs. Professing our faith publicly is a further sign of our catechists' commitment to teach in communion with Christ and His Church. I hope it will be also an incentive for us all to bear witness anew to the content of the Faith that is professed, celebrated, lived and prayed.

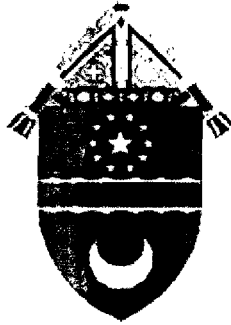
I thank you for your assistance in ensuring that your catechists undertake their Profession of Faith with zeal and devotion. I remember you in my prayers, as I ask a remembrance in yours.

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul S. Loverde". The signature is written in black ink and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington

Enclosure (1)



PROFESSION OF FAITH

I, _____, with firm faith believe and profess each and every thing that is contained in the Symbol of Faith, namely:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

With firm faith, I also believe everything contained in the Word of God, whether written or handed down in Tradition, which the Church, either by a solemn judgment or by the ordinary and universal Magisterium, sets forth to be believed as divinely revealed.

I also firmly accept and hold each and every thing definitively proposed by the Church regarding teaching on faith and morals.

Moreover, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the College of Bishops enunciate when they exercise their authentic Magisterium, even if they do not intend to proclaim these teachings by a definitive act.

Signed under oath before the undersigned on

(month) _____ (day) _____ (year) _____

Pastor/Parochial Vicar