

2013: Faith, Light, Joy

The Year of Faith, a time set aside for Catholics to rediscover and share the gift of faith, was amplified by the humble witness of Pope Francis and his call for us to experience the **Joy of the Gospel**.



Paul Haring/CNS

Thanks to your generosity, we are able to heed the call of our Holy Father to serve, to educate, to reach out with charity and to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world with enthusiasm and missionary zeal.

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH JOY



FOCUS Missionary James Timberlake carries the cross during Good Friday Stations of the Cross across Arizona State University last March. More than 300 gathered to reflect on the Passion of the Lord. The next day, the All Saints Catholic Newman Center community welcomed seven new Catholics into full communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass.

J.D. Long-Garcia/CATHOLIC SUN



Mariah Butcher, 18, a St. Bernadette parishioner, and Eveling Ortega, 26, a St. Joan of Arc parishioner, are two local young adult missionaries committed to a year of service through NET Ministries to share the Gospel.

Ambria Hammel/CATHOLIC SUN

Christ commanded His disciples to go forth and to preach to all nations, giving Christians a mandate to spread the Word of God so that all people will know his goodness. In the **Joy of the Gospel**, Pope Francis calls on Catholics to embrace our duty to be missionaries — and to do so with enthusiasm and zeal.

“An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the ‘smell of the sheep’ and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.” (#24)

REACHING OUT WITH CHARITY



Deeply woven into the fabric of the Church is a mandate to embrace those most vulnerable among us, including the poor, the sick and the unborn. Places like André House (left), Catholic Charities, Maggie’s Place and Paz de Cristo demonstrate this loving outreach of service, each and every day.

Ambria Hammel/CATHOLIC SUN



Dr. William Chavira demonstrates a new 1st Way ultrasound machine with Brenda Felix for Bishop Olmsted and the Knights of Columbus. Moments before, the bishop blessed the Knights-sponsored machine.

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The Holy Father writes in the **Joy of the Gospel**: “God’s heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself ‘became poor’ (2 Cor 8:9). The entire history of our redemption is marked by the presence of the poor. Salvation came to us from the ‘yes’ uttered by a lowly maiden from a small town on the fringes of a great empire.” (#197)

EDUCATING AND MINISTERING

The Charity and Development Appeal is the lifeblood of the Diocese of Phoenix. With your support, we are educating and forming tomorrow’s community leaders, clergy and religious, ensuring the fullness of the sacramental life.

In the **Joy of the Gospel**, Pope Francis writes: “The fire of the Spirit is given in the form of tongues and leads us to believe in Jesus Christ who, by his death and resurrection, reveals and communicates to us the Father’s infinite mercy. On the lips of the catechist the first proclamation must ring out over and over: ‘Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.’” (#164)



Bishop Olmsted issued a pastoral letter titled **Apostles of Mercy** in January urging priests to focus on the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation. Above, Fr. John Parks demonstrates how he would offer absolution.

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PROVIDING FOR PARISH COMMUNITIES



Fr. Patrick Mowrer, pastor of San Francisco de Asis, excitedly greets parishioners following the Feb. 2 Mass dedicating the long-awaited Flagstaff church. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Phoenix continued to grow and, in some cases, refresh existing buildings.

J.D. Long-Garcia/CATHOLIC SUN

Pope Francis reinforces in the **Joy of the Gospel** the importance of the parish as the “community of communities” that “encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers.” Through your support, parishes of the Diocese of Phoenix continue to be “a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.” (#28)

Likewise, Pope Francis writes, it is important that Catholics experience the richness of the faith through the expression of different cultures: “Through inculturation, the Church ‘introduces peoples, together with their cultures, into her own community’, for ‘every culture offers positive values and forms which can enrich the way the Gospel is preached, understood and lived’.” (#116)

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY



The annual Honor Your Mother event celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe once again drew many participants from different cultures and faith traditions together to honor the patroness of the Diocese of Phoenix, and also to honor her as the Mother of the Americas.

Tamara Tirado/CATHOLIC SUN



Students filled Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral for the annual all-school liturgy last January as part of Catholic Schools Week celebrations. Bishop Olmsted said the liturgy served as a time for teachers and students to gather as a common body who seek to understand more clearly “the great gift of faith.” More than 14,000 students are enrolled in 30 elementary and six Catholic high schools, while 23,000 more attend religious education classes each week.

Ambria Hammel/CATHOLIC SUN