Take a Leap of Faith: Explore God inviting you to become MORE

On August 25th of this year, our nation and world lost a true hero with the death of Neil Armstrong at 82 years old. Back on July 20, 1969, Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon and famously proclaimed: “That’s one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.” Accordingly, the news coverage of this icon’s death was immense. The media captured the wonder and awe of a man who was the first to experience what only a few select people have been fortunate enough to experience firsthand. While it was wonderful to read about this incredible moment in this man’s life and in our nation’s history, I became even more inspired by Armstrong when I learned about the countless moments before and after his historic voyage to the moon. Before he became an astronaut, Armstrong was a military pilot and flew numerous combat missions during the Korean War. As a test pilot for NASA, he was charged to push the envelope so as to advance our nation’s space effort. Yet, what truly inspired me was the way in which he lived his life after his walk on the moon. Armstrong did not cash-in on his fame and overshadow other astronauts and space adventures; instead he went about his life in humble ways as a good citizen in the service of our nation, a family man, and a university professor.

I believe that there is much to learn from this heroic and noble man. Armstrong seemed to have the ability to make each moment of his life matter, that is, he used his time and talent well for the service of others. How easy it would have been for him to be defined by only one moment in his life (as awesome as that was!); yet he chose to live his life in a fuller manner. The Vincentian education offered at Niagara University also inspires the members of our campus community to use their time and talent for the service of others. Inspired by the Vincentian charism, we cannot simply hang our hat on past achievements, but must become “more” and make a difference in society now and into the future. Therefore, it is my prayer that you will use this special time at NU to grow in your relationship with the Lord, to acquire new knowledge and skills, to celebrate your achievements, and to be open to a future filled with many opportunities and challenges.

As we voyage into another adventurous academic year, know that the Lord may not place us on the moon, but will give us the graces to step into new experiences and explore our vocation in life so as to love and serve Him and our neighbor, especially the poor. Now that’s one giant leap for humankind!
The Way Of Faith...

October 11 marked the beginning of a “Year of Faith” in the Catholic Church. In his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* dated October 11, 2011 Pope Benedict XVI exhorts to the Church that this year, which begins on the 50th anniversary of the convocation of the Second Vatican Council, will be a year to summon the faithful “to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world” (*Porta Fidei* 6). Today we find ourselves standing on the threshold of the “door of faith,” a door which Scripture tells us God has opened to us all (Acts 14:27). And what’s awaiting us on the other side? Faith.

Faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord is a precious gift, which provides comfort in times of sadness and tragedy and reassurance in times of uncertainty and fear. Faith, however, does not come easily, always, for everyone. In fact, it is often the very events and circumstances that our faith can help us “overcome” that prove to be obstacles— during tragedy: we moan, why would God let this happen? during uncertainty: we demand, why won’t God show me the way? These questions are valuable to our faith journeys and spiritual development and should never be pushed aside or seen as signs of weakness. The door of faith does not open to a room of answers, but rather to a pathway, that winds us through fields of doubt, passing over the occasional river of joy and affirmation. It can be a daunting, scary road, and at the same time, an exciting journey, with every question, every doubt, every glimmer of hope ultimately leading us closer to God.

One of the core values of Niagara University is spirituality. In Campus Ministry, we strive to provide students with opportunities to explore the ways in which they connect with their God. Make time to pass through that threshold and discover the beauty of a life of faith.

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Time Flying!!!

It was Fifty years ago - the Golden Anniversary - that Pope John XXIII opened the Second Vatican council on October 11, 1962. This is a good opportunity for the Church, as the People of God, to look back on the historical pilgrimage of the Church to the heavenly place. The People of God are the hallmark that Vatican II uses to talk about the Church, which is always reforming. Moreover, Vatican II was a Council of liturgical reformation, changed the way in which we worship, such as turning the altar to face the congregation, the use of one’s own language, and especially inviting people to fully participate in the liturgy.

Pope John XXIII was so brave when convening the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and he also highlighted one remarkable point that no pope had done before: free discussion, or speaking one’s own opinion. In addition, Vatican II is considered an Ecumenical Council because it was open to other religious leaders and cultures to contribute to the dialogue. It was very impressive on the Opening Day when the number of the Council Fathers reached up to 2,500 members from across the globe.

Pope John XXIII confidently and profoundly announced in his Opening Speech that the central purpose of the entire council was to dialogue and to negotiate the tectonic shift taking place in the world with hope in the Church. He said, “The Church as a Mother is so happy and exalted to welcome all. It is a time to open the windows of the Church to let in some fresh air and to free from so many obstacles of a profane nature that trammeled her in the past.” Clearly, Pope John XXIII means that only dialogue and negotiation can solve conflicts. Since then the Church has been trying her best to proclaim and live out the Gospel with greater clarity.

As God’s people, what should we do to show other people the sign of hope, peace, joy, and justice in the Year of Faith? Perhaps this is the very time to rekindle our baptismal flame as we look for ways to reach out and offer aide to people living in tiredness, indifference, ignorance, and hopeless in faith. Little by little and one life at a time, we can make a difference. Let us do as Mother Teresa of Calcutta taught, “To bring the light of faith to those living in darkness, and to spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”

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Kristina Schliesman
Campus Minister

Fr. John Dang, C.M.
Sacramental Care
I have not the honor to be a theologian, but I have the happiness to be a Christian; the happiness to believe and the ambition to devote my mind, my heart, and all my strength to the service of truth. (Bl. Frederic Ozanam)

A Year of Faith through Service….

Frederic Ozanam served those living on the margins of Paris because he was inspired by a question of a college peer, “Christianity is dead. So, you boast about being Catholic, what are you doing? Where are the works which demonstrate your Faith?” As a result Frederic Ozanam founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society as a way to get his peers to put their faith lives into action. Frederic Ozanam was strongly influenced by St. Vincent de Paul who suggested that Christians are called to recognize the face of Christ in those that lived on the margins of our society. Little did he realize his act of faith would evolve into one of the largest international organizations.

The NU St. Vincent de Paul Society is very much alive. Why not in this Year of Faith be a witness by giving of your time to work at the NU Soup Kitchen on Monday or Thursday evening? Warmly greeting the people on the streets on Wednesday mornings or serving those in need at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Perhaps you are free Tuesday afternoons and would like to assist young children at KidZ club. These are just a few ways to become involved in the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who was a college student involved in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, are the patrons of World Youth Day which will be held in Brazil this summer. As a result, the plan is to send NU students to World Youth Day to participate with other young Vincentians. What a testimony of faith to be there!

For more information concerning the NU St. Vincent de Paul Society or World Youth Day, please contact Monica Saltarelli in Campus Ministry at ms@niagara.edu.

"To live without faith, without a heritage to defend, without battling constantly for truth, is not to live but to 'get along'; we must never just 'get along'." - Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

How are you using your gifts to contribute to the life of the Church?

There are many ways you can become involved in the liturgy here at Niagara.

We are in need of Lectors to proclaim God’s Word and the Prayer of the Faithful, Eucharistic Ministers to distribute the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus at Communion, Greeters to welcome the community to the Chapel, and Musicians to lead our worship by singing and/or playing instruments.

If you are ready to say “Yes!” to this call for help, please contact Teresa Slipko in Campus Ministry at tslipko@niagara.edu.
**BASIC**
Applications available beginning Oct. 26th in Campus Ministry

**Rosary Making Workshop**
October 24, 2012
11:30-1:30PM Multipurpose Room Gallagher

**Vietnamese Mass**
October 28, 2012
Mass time will be changed to **9PM** this week.
Come and celebrate Mass with our Vietnamese guests and choir.

**Student Fall Retreat**
“**We Walk By Faith**”
November 2-4th  Abbey of the Genesee
$10 all-inclusive
Sign up in Campus Ministry by Oct. 25th.

**All Saints Day**
November 1, 2012
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass times: 12:15pm and 5:05pm

**All Souls Day**
November 2, 2012
Mass 12:15pm
Please take this time to list your loved one’s in the Remembrance Book in Alumni Chapel.

**St. Vincent DePaul**
**Society Meeting**
Tuesday Oct. 23, Nov.6, Nov. 20
7:30PM LL Gallagher Room 110

**Invisible Children Meeting**
Thursday Nov.1, Nov. 15, Nov. 29
7:30PM Dunleavy 219

**Sunday Mass Alumni Chapel**
11:00am & 10:00pm

**Daily Mass Alumni Chapel**
Monday to Friday @ 12:15pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)**
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm - Alumni Chapel

*Join us for Mass - Everyone is always WELCOME!!*