

# Introduction

Throughout this papacy, Pope Benedict XVI promised to continue Pope John Paul II's legacy of reaching out to young people with compassion and care. In this booklet you will find words from Pope Benedict that illustrate his desire to draw all people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here, he invites you to embrace Christ in a special way. He extols the virtue of faith and urges you to embrace the faith in all its fullness. He does not promise that this is easy, far from it, but he assures you that you will have the power of the resurrection of Christ behind you as your support and inspiration. In addition to Pope Benedict's teachings, each of these pages also offers a related Scripture passage, a prayer, and an action that fits with each theme. May you walk in faith.

# Contents

Introduction	1		
1. New Life	3	16. Mutual Prayer	18
2. Never Alone	4	17. Apostles	19
3. The Next Life	5	18. God's Light	20
4. The Saints	6	19. True Purpose	21
5. Clear Faith	7	20. Knowing Christ	22
6. God's Vessels	8	21. Joyful Service	23
7. Suffering	9	22. Do Not Fear	24
8. Listening	10	23. Christ Our Friend	25
9. Our Joy	11	24. Open the Doors	26
10. God's Will	12	25. Work Ceaselessly	27
11. Lost Sheep	13	26. Forgiveness	28
12. Holy Zeal	14	27. Trust Christ	29
13. The Desert	15	28. The Way	30
14. Our Shepherd	16	29. Commitment	31
15. Patience	17	30. Great Things	32

# 1 | New Life

“The Church is alive and the Church is young. She holds within herself the future of the world and therefore shows each of us the way towards the future. The Church is alive and we are seeing it: we are experiencing the joy that the Risen Lord promised his followers.”

## » Scripture

If you have ears to hear, listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. ■ REVELATION 3:22

## » Pray

Great and loving God, who raised Jesus from the dead, place your joy in my heart and help me to share it with my brothers and sisters everywhere. Show me the way toward the future that I might live as you are calling me to live.

## » Act

Today I will try to offer the joy of the Risen Christ to everyone I meet.

## 2 | Never Alone

“I am not alone. I do not have to carry alone what in truth I could never carry alone. All the Saints of God are protecting me, sustaining me, and carrying me. And your prayers, my dear friends, your indulgence, your love, your faith, and your hope accompany me.”

### » Scripture

Pray for me that in proclaiming the Gospel I may speak as boldly as I ought to. ■ EPHESIANS 6:20

### » Pray

O God of greatness, I ask you to walk closely beside Pope Benedict XVI: protect him, sustain him, and carry him as he guides your Church. Thank you, that I, too, am accompanied by your saints and sustained by their prayers.

### » Act

I will recall today that the Holy Father depends on my prayerful support.

# 3 | The Next Life

“Our beloved Pope, John Paul II, crossed the threshold of the next life, entering into the mystery of God. But he did not take this step alone. Those who believe are never alone, neither in life or in death.”

## » Scripture

If the Spirit of God who raised Christ from death lives in you...God will also give life to your mortal body because of the Spirit. ■ ROMANS 8:11

## » Pray

Holy Spirit of God, I ask your healing touch on all who have died and especially on Pope John Paul II. Thank you for your promise of everlasting life for him and for me. Help me to follow Jesus faithfully that I may share his resurrection.

## » Act

I will try to be aware today of all God's gifts to me, especially the gift of life.

# 4 | The Saints

“The communion of saints consists not only of the great men and women who have gone before us, but all of us. All of us belong to the communion of saints. At any moment we can call upon the saints from every age to accompany us into the glory of God. There we will be among our own and truly at home.”

## >> Scripture

Since you belong to the Lord Jesus, we beg and urge you to live as we taught you. Then you will be pleasing to God. ■ 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1

## >> Pray

God of all holy people, God of the saints, thank you for these spiritual companions who pray for me and walk with me as I make my way to you. Thank you, too, for calling me to be in their number.

## >> Act

I will remember today that all people are God's people and I will show reverence and respect toward all.

# 5 | Clear Faith

“Have a clear faith, based on the creed of the Church, and don’t let yourself be tossed and swept along by every wind of teaching. Rely not on your own ego and desires, but on God.”

## » Scripture

Open yourself to God’s Spirit. Hold on to what is good and don’t have anything to do with evil.

■ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:19

## » Pray

Holy God and Creator, help me to have a clear faith by embracing the teachings of the Church with joy and hope. Help me to resist those things that keep me from becoming the person you want me to be.

## » Act

Today I will thank God often for my Catholic faith and I will try to be a good witness to it.