

**\*\*\*WORD COUNT: 248**

**The Year of Faith: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics**

**(Our Sunday Visitor, 2012)**

**by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J.**

**reviewed by Richard Grebenc**

Pope Benedict has called for a “Year of Faith” to begin in October 2012. He has done so because he has recognized the “profound crisis of faith that has affected many people” (*Porta Fidei*, n. 2). Eroding the faith today are tendencies toward rationalism, atheism, and compartmentalizing God. The pope is calling all Christians to strengthen their belief and follow Christ more closely.

Fr. Mitch Pacwa’s *The Year of Faith: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics* is an excellent way to honor the pope’s call and counter the attacks on faith. By highlighting key points in the pope’s apostolic letter *Porta Fidei* (“Door of Faith” – see Acts 14:27), which called for this Year of Faith, Fr. Mitch takes the student on a journey through the Bible and the liturgy that will reawaken, renew, or refresh one’s faith.

Whether working through the text alone or with a group, appropriate time must be taken to do this study slowly and reflectively. To get the most out of it, the reader must work carefully through the text (which is helpfully broken up into short sections), read and contemplate all Scripture texts referenced, and thoughtfully consider and answer all questions.

With study group tips at the beginning of the book and writing that is very accessible and engaging, there is no reason why involved Catholics should not encourage their pastors to allow them to do this six week Bible study in their parishes or, at least, conduct them in their own homes.