



St. Rita News

The new monthly newsletter serving Saint Rita Parish

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Shedding A Little Light On *Lumen Fidei*

On June 29, 2013, Pope Francis signed his first encyclical, *Lumen Fidei*, The Light of Faith.

The signing of papal encyclicals garners worldwide media coverage; however, the brief news items immediately following publication are no substitute for delving into the letter itself. If

you rarely or never spend time studying encyclicals, this short Q & A may give you a place to start.

What is an encyclical?

The word encyclical comes from the Greek for "circle." Today, the word encyclical is most commonly used to describe a letter issued from the Holy Father. Like any letter, a papal encyclical includes a salutation indicating the intended recipients. *Lumen Fidei* is addressed to the Bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated persons, and the lay faithful.

What is special about this encyclical?

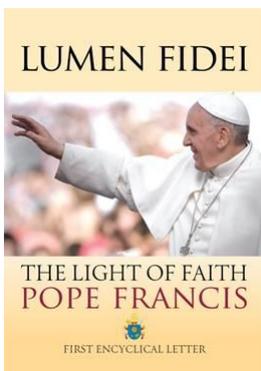
Not only is *Lumen Fidei* Pope Francis' first encyclical, it is also the third in a series of encyclicals begun by Pope Benedict the XVI on the three theological virtues.

The first two letters on the virtues of love (*Deus Caritas Est*) and hope (*Spe Salvi*) were published in 2005 and 2007 respectively.

Unusually, two pontiffs can take credit for *Lumen Fidei*'s composition. While Pope Benedict the XVI had nearly finished the encyclical prior to his resignation, Pope Francis completed the work.

How can I read *Lumen Fidei*?

Lumen Fidei is available on the official web site for



"Faith is not a light which scatters all our darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night and suffices for the journey."

-- POPE FRANCIS, *in Lumen Fidei*

the Holy See, www.vatican.va. Click on the language of your choice, and a prominent link to the encyclical will appear at the top of the page. The encyclical may be read online, downloaded electronically, or

printed. You may also pre-order hardcover versions through Ignatius Press at www.ignatius.com or 1-800-651-1531.

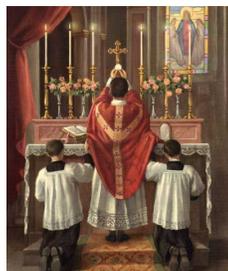
Why can't I read *Lumen Fidei* on my Nook, Kindle or other eReader?

Currently, both the Holy See and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are working to make electronic versions more readily available for digital media. In the meantime, copyright laws limit distribution to the .pdf format.

Where can I learn more about *Lumen Fidei* and encyclicals in general?

Vatican News Radio has posted the transcription of interviews with Monsignor John Kennedy, an official at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The interviews comprise a five-part series about the encyclical that should be "an essential staple for any Catholic's summer reading list." The interviews are also available as streaming audio. Both the transcript and audio are available at www.news.va/en

Other treatments, analyses, and opinions abound online, but proceed with caution! The Internet and its blogosphere have a seemingly endless supply of links with varied credibility.



New Mass and Confession Schedule

Reminder: this month begins a new Mass and Confession schedule at St. Rita's. Confession and Holy Mass will now be offered every weeknight, beginning at 7 pm! Tuesday and Thursday nights, the Mass will be a Traditional Latin Mass. If you'd like to learn more about the Traditional Latin Mass, you can read the August and September 2012 issues of this newsletter, archived online at www.strita-parish.net/parish-newsletter/

AHG Explorers Ecstatic for Summer Camp



An excited (but exhausted!) group of American Heritage Girls from St. Rita's Troop VA 1381 returned August 3rd from a thrilling week spent at Camp Ross on BSA's Goshen Scout Reservation. For several girls this was their first time away from home and all returned "a little taller, a little

more grown up," according to a veteran Boy Scout leader. As part of the troop's commitment to exciting outdoor activities, the girls participated in camp favorites such as archery, BB's, scout craft (knots, fire building, teamwork challenges), canoeing and swimming, arts & crafts, hiking, nature exhibits, songs and campfires. We even attended Mass outdoors one evening! Sharing a 9 tent campsite with a sister AHG troop from Church of the Redeemer (Mechanicsville) helped new friendships to blossom, which we hope to cultivate through future combined camping trips. Older AHG members attended Camp Marriott the same week with similar activities, but more independence in their daily schedules.

Troop VA 1381 looks forward to our second year at St. Rita and will offer more information at Back to School events. Our troop is open to all (parish, school, homeschool and local area) girls age 5-18 and strives to serve as a parish ministry



Faith, Service and Fun: St. Rita's AHG Goshen service project: a crucifix for the priest to hang on a tree when he celebrates Mass outdoors at camp.

and outreach to the greater Alexandria community. All are invited (parents, girls, siblings) to the Scout Ice Cream Social in the School Hall on Friday, September 13 at 6:30pm. A Scout Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, September 15 at 11am in the church. For more information, visit www.ahgonline.org or contact Troop Coordinator Stephanie Rosales at AHG.VA1381@gmail.com.

Farewell... and Hello!

With the August issue, the Newsletter bids farewell to its founding co-editor, Erin Church. Erin and her family are moving to Kathmandu, Nepal for the next three years. We will miss Erin, and wish her all the best! Please remember her family in your prayers as they embark on this exciting adventure.

Also this month, we welcome a new co-editor, Martha Picarello. Having recently joined the St. Rita community in mid-March, Martha looks forward to serving the parish while learning more about its rich history and traditions. She and her husband Anthony relocated their family from northern Arlington just before Easter. They have two daughters Elena, 3, and Ann, 1.

n LIVING OUR FAITH



Baptisms

- + Adelaide Patchak, July 18
- + Geovanni A. Campos, July 27
- + Bradley G. Chicas, July 27
- + Dania J. Granados, July 27
- + Bryan A. Cabrera, July 27
- + Alexis Cabrera, July 27
- + Jessica K. Cabrera, July 27
- + Caroline F. Kelly, July 28



Weddings

- + Fredy Blanco & Melissa Romero, July 6
- + Spencer Barrs & Noreen Daly, July 18
- + Peter Donahue & Carly Miller, July 27
- + Karl Harris & Lindsey DiLuzio, July 27

Prayer Intentions

Please contact Catherine Feil at catherine.feil@gmail.com or 703.671.0402 to submit prayer intentions to be published in the next issue of the parish newsletter. Thank you!

Do you have ideas for future items in the parish newsletter, or would you like to submit a feature for publication? All submissions can be directed to Catherine Feil at catherine.feil@gmail.com or 703.671.0402. Thank you!