VIA FIDELIS:
THE FAITHFUL WAY

UNDERSTAND THE FAITH
YEAR 2 STUDY GUIDES

Monthly study guides can be used in personal prayer and for small group reflection.

NOVEMBER 2026

SCRIPTURE
Isaiah 45:1-25

REFLECT:
1. In this passage, God, through Isaiah, speaks of the deliverance of his people from the Babylonian exile by a foreign ruler, Cyrus of Persia (even calling him "anointed"). How has God worked in your life through unexpected means?
2. What does this passage say about trusting in the Creator of all? How can we internalize that message in our own lives?
3. God call all the ends of the earth to turn to him. In what ways can we take this message to heart?

READ: A selection from *Via Fidelis* — Inviting Others to Join Us (pg. 30)

Many of us have friends and family members who do not share our faith. When they inevitable ask questions about our beliefs, or express an interest in learning more, we should respond in kindness and include in our answer a gentle invitation to attend the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). It is a good practice to offer to go with them so that they do not have to go alone!

OCIA, which is the catechumenate by which a non-believer is prepared for baptism, was restored by the Second Vatican Council since the catechumenate was understood to be a source of spiritual renewal for the entire Church (see *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 64). The order is also popularly used in our country to help already baptized Christians to prepare for reception into the fullness of the Church.

The catechumenate goes all the way back to the early Church and its restoration is a great help to the Church today in highlighting evangelization and catechetical formation. It is such a vast spiritual resource that I have used it as a help in preparing this pastoral letter and our five-year pastoral plan.

On our *Via Fidelis*, I encourage every parish to have a strong Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and to do their best to invite and welcome everyone to come and enter into the fullness of the Christian faith.

REFLECT:
1. In this selection, the bishop discussed the catechumenal process (often referred to as OCIA). Have you, or someone you know, ever had any experience with this process? If so, what was it like?
2. Why do you think the Church has an extended, gradual process to become Catholic? How might this time period help the prospective Catholic?
3. *Via Fidelis* is modeled after the catechumenate process. Why is this process of conversion instructive for all of Christians?

