

## **EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**

### *Merciful like the Father*

On Friday, March 13, 2015, the second anniversary of his election to the papacy, Pope Francis announced that an Extraordinary Jubilee will be held between December 8, 2015 and November 20, 2016, a Year of Mercy. He said, "I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time." Earlier in the year he said, "There is so much need of mercy today, and it is important that the lay faithful live it and bring it into different social environments. Go forth! We are living in the age of mercy, this is the age of mercy." In his Lenten message, he said, "How greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!"

The theme for the Year of Mercy is "Merciful like the Father." Beginning with paragraph 13 of *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bull of Indiction (available from [www.fargodiocese.org/yearofmercy](http://www.fargodiocese.org/yearofmercy)), Pope Francis gives ways to live this Jubilee (numbers refer to paragraphs of the Bull):

- rediscover the value of silence and contemplation (#2 & #13)
- open a *Door of Mercy* at the Cathedral and other significant churches (#3 & #14)
- realize pilgrimage as "an impetus to conversion" (#14)
- reflect on and exercise the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, especially being mindful of the poor (#15 & #16)

#### Corporeal Works of Mercy

- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- clothe the naked
- welcome the stranger
- heal the sick
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead

#### Spiritual Works of Mercy

- counsel the doubtful
- instruct the ignorant
- admonish sinners
- comfort the afflicted
- forgive offenses
- bear patiently with those who do us ill
- pray for the living and the dead

- celebrate and experience God's mercy during Lent (#17 & #18)
  - implement "24 Hours for the Lord" on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent
  - putting the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a central place
  - welcome "Missionaries of Mercy"
- promote indulgences to heal the "residue" of sin (#22)
- foster encounters and dialogue with Judaism and Islam and other religions traditions "that we might know and understand one another better" (#23)
- look to the example of the saints, like Mary, the Mother of God, and Sr. Faustina (#24)

For more information, visit [www.fargodiocese.org/yearofmercy](http://www.fargodiocese.org/yearofmercy) or the official Vatican website [www.im.va](http://www.im.va).

Revised: August 12, 2015.