

(Food for thought)

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

(8 December, 2015 – 20 November, 2016)



Here are a few important themes for reflection during this important year. Jesus is the “face” of the Father’s mercy Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Francis writes in *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, is the “face” of the Father’s mercy— he reveals the mercy of God by his words, actions, and person. We follow Jesus’ example when we open ourselves to the Father’s mercy by looking “sincerely” into the eyes of our brothers and sisters, including those “who are denied their dignity.”

How have you experienced the Father’s mercy in your own life? How might Jesus be calling you to look “sincerely” into the eyes of those who are denied their dignity?

Mercy is “the beating heart of the Gospel” Pope Francis writes: “It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy.” Mercy, he says, is “the beating heart of the Gospel” (*Misericordiae Vultus*).

To live mercy, we must rediscover both the **spiritual works of mercy** (*counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead*), and the **corporal works of mercy** (*feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead*).

Which spiritual works of mercy might Christ be calling you to practice?

Which corporal works of mercy?

Mercy “demands justice” “True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer,”

Pope Francis notes. “It asks us, the Church, us, the City of Rome, it asks the institutions

- to ensure that no one ever again stand in need of a soup-kitchen, of makeshift

- lodgings, of a service of legal assistance in order to have his legitimate right recognized to live and to work, to be fully a person” (*Address to Jesuit Refugee Services, 9/10/13*).

In your own life, and in your faith community, how do you work for justice? Do you seek to address the root causes of problems that affect those who are vulnerable?



Useful links

- 1) Official website for Year of Mercy:
<<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en.html>>
- 2) For music score of hymn for Year of Mercy, visit this site:
<<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/dam/gdm/documenti/inno/Inglese%20-%20Tutto%20lo%20spartito.pdf>>
- 3) Listen to the hymn (in Latin) by visiting this site: <<https://youtu.be/-NoDto5s9fg>>
- 4) Write-up on Year of Mercy in Redemptorist Singapore website, novenachurch.com : <<http://www.novenachurch.com/jubilee-year-of-mercy.html>>

