

Papal – Year of Mercy

1. Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.
2. We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of Mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eye of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.
3. At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective. The Holy year will begin on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.
4. May the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers in cooperating with the work of salvation wrought by Christ, lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy.
5. The Jubilee Year will close with the liturgical Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20, 2016. On that day, as we seal the Holy Door, we shall be filled, above all, with a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity for having granted us an extraordinary time of grace.
6. In short, the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which he reveals his love as that of a father or mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child.
7. "For His mercy endures forever."
8. Everything in Jesus speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion.
9. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.
10. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.
11. "The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy – the most stupendous attribute of the Creator and of the Redeemer - and when she brings people close to the sources of the Savior's mercy, of which she is the trustee and dispenser."
12. Wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.

13. We must rediscover the value of silence, so as to listen to God's Word and adopt it as our life style.
14. As pilgrims on the journey of life, Mercy is a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. Merciful like the Father, therefore is the "motto," of this Holy Year, as Jesus shows us, without judgment, condemnation and with forgiveness.
15. In this year may we open our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society by increasing our desire to reflect on and grow in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, on which we will be judged by God.
Corporal May we Feed the hungry, Give drink to the thirsty, Clothe the naked, Welcome the stranger, Heal the sick, Visit the imprisoned and Bury the dead.
Spiritual Let us Council the doubtful, Instruct the ignorant, Admonish sinners, Forgive offenses, Bear patiently with those who do us ill and Pray for the living and the dead.
16. To study God's Words of Mercy, following Christ's own actions and to do so with cheerfulness.
17. Let us during Lent enter into the Mercy of prayer, fasting and almsgiving and know God's Mercy by entering into (or returning to) the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And let us pray for all Confessors.
18. To pray for and welcome the "Missionaries of Mercy," heralds of joy and forgiveness, that will be sent by Pope Francis into the world, as a sign of the Church's maternal solicitude for the people of God.
19. To review our practices on the use of money, our greed for it, our dependence on it, and any corruption we might be perpetrating or participating in, and to change our lives through conversion.
20. To live justly, not in legalistic laws, but in the faithful abandonment of oneself to God's will, that of desiring mercy, not sacrifice.
21. To acknowledge justice (as God does) but to go beyond it to mercy and forgiveness (as God does).
22. Let us live this Jubilee year intensely, begging the Father to forgive all our sins and to bathe us all in his merciful indulgence.
23. To go beyond the confines of the church to foster encounters with our brothers and sisters of the Jewish and Muslim religious traditions and other noble religious traditions as well and to drive out every form of closed-mindedness, disrespect, violence and discrimination.
24. May we call on Mary, our Mother of Mercy to watch over us in this year of Mercy. May we call for the help of the Saints, especially Sr. Faustina, to obtain grace for us to walk in the ways of Mercy.
25. May we allow God to surprise us in the year of Mercy and may we be credible witnesses of mercy.