



THE DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

CELEBRATES THE

JUBILEE OF MERCY

Advent 2015 - Advent 2016

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Jubilee Year of Mercy

Introduction

Pope Francis has given the Church a wonderful gift! He has proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church “to make more evident its mission to be a witness of mercy.” Only the third special jubilee in Church history, this year will be an opportunity to encourage Christians to meet people’s real needs with concrete assistance, and to experience and recognize with gratitude the mercy of God in our own lives.

THE JUBILEE OF MERCY

The Holy Year will open on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and conclude on the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 20, 2016. The official proclamation (bull of indiction) of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* (“The Face of Mercy”) and explains how in Jesus Christ, in his words and actions, the mercy of God has been revealed.

In his Papal Bull, Pope Francis focuses our attention on several key ideas:

1. Encountering the mercy of God through the Sacrament of Mercy – Reconciliation;
2. The importance of making pilgrimage as a reminder that we are a pilgrim people;
3. Living mercifully through the practice of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.



In this Jubilee Year, Catholics should feel challenged to make it evident that the Church is a living witness to the compassion of God. By recognizing the presence of the Father’s mercy in our own lives, through prayer, reflection, and reconciliation, we are then prepared to search out and respond to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our community – the sick, the imprisoned, the poor, the stranger – and bring mercy to others.

RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

This resource booklet has been developed as an aid to equip parishes as they embark on a ‘pilgrimage’ through the Year of Mercy. Please adapt these resources to suit your own unique needs and circumstances. This booklet is not intended to be exhaustive; we will continue to provide additional resources to you as the Jubilee Year unfolds.

“In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort.” Pope Francis

SOME KEY IDEAS FROM *MISERICORDIAE VULTUS*

- **A year steeped in mercy.** “How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God!” (5)
- **Motto of the holy year:** “Merciful like the Father.” (Luke 6:36 – “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful”.) (13)
- **Door of Mercy** – “In every local Church, at the cathedral – the mother church of the faithful in any particular area – a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year.” (3)
- The **beatitude** to which we should particularly aspire this Holy Year: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (9)
- **Pilgrimage** – represents the journey each of us makes in this life.
- Emphasis on **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.** “It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.” We need to open our eyes and see the misery of the world; reawaken our conscience. (15)
- Particular emphasis during **season of Lent.** “The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy.” (17)
 - *Meditate on Sacred Scripture* during the season of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the father. (Micah, Isaiah) (17)
 - *Confessors* must be authentic signs of the Father’s mercy.
 - *Bishops are asked to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation* with their people so that the time of grace offered by the Jubilee Year will make it possible for many of God’s sons and daughters to take up once again the journey to the Father’s house. (18)
- **Mary, the Mother of Mercy.** Year of Mercy entrusted to Mary’s care.
- **“Let us allow God to surprise us.”** (25)

Make a pilgrimage to the “Door of Mercy” at St. Stephen Cathedral.

The Door of Mercy is a special door that is opened at the cathedral of the diocese at the beginning of the Jubilee Year, a ritual that has been a part of our faith for centuries. The Cathedral of St. Stephen in Owensboro, along with the basilicas in Rome and around the world, will open their Door of Mercy on the third Sunday of Advent, as a sign of God’s opening a new pathway to salvation. As pilgrims pass through the door, we pray that they will also pass through the threshold into a life of mercy.

Make a pilgrimage to one of the other places of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Owensboro.

- Fathers of Mercy, Auburn
- Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount
- Chapel of Mercy at St. Thomas More Church, Paducah
- Marian Shrine, Bowling Green
- St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, McQuady

Indulgence:

A plenary indulgence may be gained once daily by each member of the faithful who, renouncing any personal attachment to sin, even venial sin, and desiring to obtain the indulgence, makes a pilgrimage to any of the 6 pilgrimage sites during the Jubilee Year and fulfills the following conditions:

- makes a sacramental confession while on pilgrimage or within a few days before or after;
- participates at Mass and receives Holy Communion, preferably on the same day of the pilgrimage;
- offers one Our Father and one Hail Mary or any other prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father;
- while on pilgrimage, devoutly assists at a liturgical celebration or other pious exercise (e.g. stations of the cross, rosary), or spends time in pious meditation ending with the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ or the Nicene Creed, and prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Offer a parish mission or parish days of reflection and action, to reflect and act on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Open hearts and hands to those whom society forgets – create or expand food banks, visitation programs to hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons, parish outreach to homeless shelters, immigrant communities, Habitat for Humanity builds, etc.

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent with a particular focus on God's mercy. Participate in "The Light is On For You" during Lent.

Publicize the Message of Mercy – through the use of social media, print media, display of sign or banner, combine with other parishes in your area or deanery and purchase billboards. (Designs for print materials, including billboards, are available from the Office of Worship.)

Deanery-Wide Celebration of Mercy – Join with other parishes in your deanery to offer a Celebration of Mercy, including a communal reconciliation service (with Bishop Medley and other priests on hand as confessors) and conclude with a reception/celebration of God's Mercy. (The Office of Worship will provide the text for a Reconciliation Service.)

All Cathedrals of the World Open Doors of Mercy

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13th, 2015

World Day of Peace

January 1, 2016

Sending Forth of the Missionaries of Mercy

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2016

“24 Hours for the Lord”

March 4-5, 2016

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 3, 2016

Jubilee for Deacons

Feast of Corpus Christi, May 27, 2016

Jubilee for Priests

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 3, 2016

World Youth Day

July 25-31, 2016

Jubilee for Workers and Volunteers of Mercy

September 5, 2016

Solemnity of All Saints, “to pray for the living and the dead”

November 1, 2016

Jubilee for Prisoners

November 6, 2016

Closing of the Door of Mercy

November 13, 2016

PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE IN THE DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

In *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis states: “The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim traveling along the road, making his way to the desired destination.”

The Holy Father desires that everyone be given the opportunity to experience pilgrimage. For this reason, he has asked each diocese to designate particular shrines or churches as places of pilgrimage for the faithful in the area.

In the Diocese of Owensboro, we are pleased to offer six pilgrimage sites. You will find information listed below concerning Mass times, reconciliation times and times for Eucharistic adoration as well as some special mercy celebrations that have been planned. In many instances, plans are still being put into place for additional special celebrations throughout the year. We’ll pass that information along to you as it is received.

Out of consideration for the places of pilgrimage, we do ask that if more than 8-10 pilgrims will be visiting any of the following places of pilgrimage, please contact the site first to insure that they can accommodate your group. You may also want to pray a prayer of blessing over any pilgrims from your parish. The Book of Blessings contains “Orders for the Blessing of Pilgrims”, chapter 8.

SAINT STEPHEN CATHEDRAL, OWENSBORO

- 610 Locust Street, Owensboro, KY

Contact Person: Michael Bogdan / 270-852-8327

Sunday Mass Schedule: 5:00 PM Saturday; 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM Sunday

Weekday Mass Schedule: 7:00 AM; 12:05 PM

Eucharistic Adoration: First Fridays 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Reconciliation: 9:30 – 11:30 AM on Saturdays; 4:00 – 5:00 PM on Saturdays

Mercy Celebrations: Special celebrations in observance of the Year of Mercy on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 3, 2016).

*The Door of Mercy for the Diocese of Owensboro is located at the Cathedral.

Chapel of Mercy, St. Thomas More Church, Paducah

- 5645 Blandville Road, Paducah, KY

Contact Person:	Lois Bell / 270-534-9000
Sunday Mass Schedule:	5:30 PM Saturday; 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish) Sunday
Weekday Mass Schedule:	Monday 6:00 PM Tuesday 7:00 AM Thursday 6:00 PM Friday 7:00 AM
Eucharistic Adoration:	Perpetual Adoration in the Chapel of Mercy
Reconciliation:	4:00 – 5:00 PM Saturday 5:30 – 6:00 PM Thursday
Mercy Celebrations:	December 8, 6:00 PM – Solemn Sung Vespers

FATHERS OF MERCY, AUBURN

- 806 Shaker Museum Rd., Auburn, KY

Contact Person:	Fr. Joel Rogers / 270-361-9613
Sunday Mass Schedule:	10:00 AM
Weekday Mass Schedule:	Monday – Saturday, 7:30 AM
Eucharistic Adoration:	Daily (every day of the week) Holy Hour: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM Year of Mercy Special Hours: Mondays from 7:00 – 9:00 PM Friday from 2:00 – 5:30 PM
Reconciliation:	Sunday 9:15 – 10:00 AM and after daily and Sunday Mass Monday 7:00 – 9:00 PM Friday 3:00 – 5:00 PM
Mercy Celebrations:	Divine Mercy Sunday (April 3, 2016): 10:00 AM Mass and afternoon devotions at 2:00 – 4:00 PM (with confessions available in the morning and afternoon).

MARIAN SHRINE, BOWLING GREEN (LOCATED AT ST. JOSEPH PARISH, BOWLING GREEN)

- 434 Church Avenue, Bowling Green, KY

Contact Person:	St. Joseph Church Parish Office / 270-842-2525
Sunday Mass Schedule:	5:00 PM Saturday (English); 7:00 PM Saturday (Spanish)
<i>(St. Joseph Church)</i>	8:00 AM & 10:30 AM (English); 12:30 PM (Spanish)
Weekday Mass Schedule:	Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM
	1 st Saturday of every month: 8:30 AM Mass & 1 st Saturday devotions
Eucharistic Adoration:	Available upon request
Reconciliation:	3:00 -4:30 PM Saturday
	5:00 – 6:00 PM Thursday
	6:30 – 8:00 PM on Wednesdays of Advent & Lent
Mercy Celebrations:	The following are some suggested days for visiting the Marian Shrine: December 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe); January 1 (Mary, Mother of God); February 11 (Our Lady of Lourdes); March 19 (St. Joseph); April 4 (Annunciation); May 13 (Fatima); June 4 (Immaculate Heart of Mary); July 16 (Carmel); August 15 (Assumption); August 22 (Queenship); September 8 (Nativity of Mary); October 7 (Holy Rosary).

SAINT MARY OF THE WOODS CATHOLIC CHURCH, McQUADY

- 4711 Highway 105 S, Hardinsburg, KY

Contact Person:	Sr. Mary Agnes / 270-756-2093
Sunday Mass Schedule:	4:00 PM Saturday; 8:00 AM Sunday
Weekday Mass Schedule:	6:00 PM Tuesday; 8:00 AM Thursday
Eucharistic Adoration:	First Thursday of the month
Reconciliation:	3:15 – 3:45 PM Saturday

URSULINE SISTERS OF MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH, MAPLE MOUNT

- 8001 Cummings Rd., Maple Mount, KY

Contact Person: Sister Mary Matthias Ward / 270-229-2011

Sunday Mass Schedule: 11:00 AM Sunday

Weekday Mass Schedule: 7:15 AM Weekdays; 9:00 AM on holidays

Eucharistic Adoration: Each Friday from 3:00 – 5:00 PM ending with Evening Prayer of the Church; Second Sunday of the month from 3:00 – 5:00 PM ending with Evening Prayer of the Church.

Reconciliation: March 13, 2016 at 4:00 PM

Mercy Celebrations: There will be programs offered for days and evenings at the Retreat Center.

Throughout the Year of Mercy, the Office of Worship will provide parishes with intercessions that may be added to their regular intercessions if they choose. Below are intercessions for December 2015:

December 2015

December 8, Feast of The Immaculate Conception

Diciembre 8, Fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción

As we wait for the dawning of the Sun of Justice and Righteousness, may mercy dawn in us so that through us, your Word is spoken to the world, and through you, we perform marvelous deeds of mercy. We pray to the Lord.

Que mientras esperamos la venida del Sol de la Justicia y Rectitud la misericordia amanecer en nosotros, para que por medio de nosotros tu Palabra sea dicha al mundo, y por medio de ti, podamos realizar maravillosas obras de misericordia. Oremos al Señor.

December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

Diciembre 13, Tercer Domingo de Adviento

In kindness and mercy, may we share all our abundant blessings with those in need, that all may rejoice in the nearness of God. We pray to the Lord.

Que podamos compartir en bondad y misericordia las bendiciones abundantes que tenemos, y así todos puedan regocijarse en la cercanía de Dios. Oremos al Señor.

December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Diciembre 20, Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

That we journey in mercy every day of our lives, open to the will of God, we pray to the Lord.

Que cada día de nuestras vidas caminemos en misericordia, abiertos a la voluntad de Dios, oremos al Señor.

December 25, Nativity of the Lord

Diciembre 25

That we recognize in the humble birth of Our Savior the transcendent mercy of God, and our own great need of that mercy, we pray to the Lord.

Para que en el nacimiento humilde de Nuestro Salvador reconozcamos la misericordia transcendental de Dios, y nuestra propia necesidad de su misericordia, oremos al Señor.

December 27, Holy Family of Jesus and Mary

Diciembre 27, Sagrada Familia de Jesús y María

May our own holy families be models of a mercy and love with which we enrich and bless our communities, we pray to the Lord.

Que nuestras propias sagradas familias sean modelos de misericordia y amor con la cual podamos enriquecer y bendecir nuestras comunidades, oremos al Señor.

GENERAL RESOURCES

Vatican Year of Mercy Website: <http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en.html>

Papal Bull: “Misericordiae Vultus”:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/index.cfm>

BULLETIN RESOURCES

USCCB bulletin insert on Jubilee Year of Mercy.

http://rcdok.org/documents/Year_of_Mercy/USCCB_handout.pdf

Week by Week Through the Year of Mercy. A wonderful resource for bulletin editors (contains both English and Spanish) <http://www.wlp.jspaluch.com/15618.htm>

CATHOLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, CATECHISTS, & YOUTH MINISTERS

How to Teach About Mercy (For Catechists/Teachers/Homilists). A series of notes about Mercy and how to teach it. <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/howtoteabme.html>

Introducing the Holy Year of Mercy to Students. Sadlier Religion. Offers 4 practical suggestions for catechists to introduce the jubilee to students. May also be used at home.

<http://www.sadlier.com/religion/we-believe/introducing-the-holy-year-of-mercy-to-students>

A Holy Year of Mercy Faith Fact. Sadlier Religion. Downloadable handout with suggestions for teaching about mercy. <http://www.sadlier.com/religion/we-believe/a-holy-year-of-mercy-faith-fact>

The Dignity of All: Catholic Social Teachings. Talking points on Catholic Social Teaching for catechists, teachers and homilists. <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/diofallitapo.html>

Works of Mercy Booklet. <http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2010/01/works-of-mercy-booklet/>

Works of Mercy Prayers & Activities Packet from Joe Paprocki.

<http://www2.loyolapress.com/l/39532/2015-06-19/22lrbc>

The Heart of a Catechist. A pamphlet from Loyola Press presents Pope Francis' message on the catechist's relationship with Christ in order to share the Good News.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/heart-of-a-catechist.htm>

Living the Works of Mercy: Daring Teens to Change the World. This spiral bound book includes prayer experiences, Scripture-based presentations, practical handouts, internet resource listings and outreach activity suggestions. Two retreats are also included. The corporal works of mercy section is oriented toward junior high students and the spiritual works of mercy section is oriented toward high school students. <http://www.smp.org/product/3801/Living-the-Works-of-Mercy/>

HOMILY HELPS

Year of Mercy Homily Helps from Catholic Relief Services. <http://www.crs.org/resource-center/year-mercy-homily-helps/>

The Dignity of All: Catholic Social Teachings. Talking points on Catholic Social Teaching for catechists, teachers and homilists. <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/diofallitapo.html>

**More homily notes to come your way soon from our own Fr. Dave Johnson.*

MUSIC

Permission is given by the Vatican (for the text) and by the composer (for the various music settings) to reprint any of the following for local use without further permission. This grant, however, requires listing the authors and the copyright information for each use, and not selling or asking for payment.

Hymn (text only): English

<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/inno.html>

Hymn (Text and music): English (These are files on Dropbox and require a Dropbox account. You may sign up for an account free of charge.)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bui5evlkc3xy3s8/AAB8lM2DlM6pJmpqZA0H7MT1a?dl=0>

Year of Mercy Hymn on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-N0Dto5s9fg&feature=youtu.be&a>

Hymn (Text and music): Spanish (These are files on Dropbox and require a Dropbox account. You may sign up for an account free of charge.)

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u94er8c5lurxm00/AADEETRpGw2vUJOI_T8WGjHa?dl=0

PRAYER AND RETREAT RESOURCES

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/preghiera.html>

Christ Have Mercy Parish Retreat. Prepared by Bill Huebsch from Pastoral Planning. This is a retreat which may be used by parishes during the Year of Mercy. The retreat and training materials are available in English and Spanish.

<http://store.pastoralplanning.com/echhamepabar.html>

Have Mercy on Us (Youth Ministry / Confirmation Retreat). A retreat focusing on practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant and the sacrament of Reconciliation. <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/hameonusimic.html>

Divine Mercy Chaplet.

<http://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/praythechaplet.php>

Prayer Card (Liturgical Press). https://www.litpress.org/Products/4744/pope-franciss-prayer-for-the-jubilee-of-mercy.aspx?utm_source=email_marketing_system&utm_medium=email&utm_content=24422557&utm_campaign=7/21/15%20Pope%20Francis%20Prayer%20Card

SMALL GROUP FAITH SHARING RESOURCES

Be Merciful: Reflections on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Includes six small-group or personal sessions. <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/bemeionspcow.html>

The Church of Mercy Discussion Guide. The Church of Mercy Discussion Guide is broken down into ten parts, each with questions that focus on ideas, statements, and quotes from the book, "The Church of Mercy". <http://www.loyolapress.com/the-church-of-mercy-discussion-guide-10-pack.htm>

Discipleship Series from Christopher Ruff. A small group faith-sharing series which includes 3 books in English and one in Spanish – each book has materials for 6 sessions. Particularly appropriate may be the book entitled "As I Have Loved You". <http://www.christopherruff.com/>

Divine Mercy Bible Study. A lectio divina style Bible Study for individual or parish use.

<http://store.pastoralplanning.com/dimetbist.html>

Good News People. A program from Just Faith. GoodNewsPeople includes fourteen 2-hour sessions, broken into two seasons of seven sessions. Each session includes prayer, *lectio divina*, dialogue, and sharing Good News Stories. <http://justfaith.org/programs/goodnewspeople/>

Having Mercy: 6 Small Group Sessions. Available in both English and Spanish. Focuses on understanding and living mercy more fully.

<http://store.pastoralplanning.com/hameismgrers.html>

The Holy Year of Mercy: A Faith-Sharing Guide. A resource for individual reflection and small groups published by The Word Among Us Press. <http://bookstore.wau.org/The-Holy-Year-Of-Mercy-A-Faith-Sharing-Guide-P128.aspx>

Live Mercy. A series of 90 minute sessions from Catholic Relief Services that makes connections to themes of mercy highlighted during the Jubilee Year. The three themes for the series are: “Live Mercy: Feed the Hungry”, “Live Mercy: Mercy in the Marketplace”, and “Live Mercy in the Halls of Power”. <http://www.crs.org/resource-center/live-mercy-feed-hungry/>

Loving Mercy. A series of 17 sessions on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

<http://ignatianresources.com/loving-mercy/>

Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics. Journey toward a deeper understanding of mercy in your own life by exploring God’s mercy to the Israelites.

<https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1597>

WORKS OF MERCY

Archdiocese of Detroit: Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy. <http://cmvic.net/works-of-mercy>

The Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy: Living Christian Love and Compassion. Mitch Finley. <http://www.amazon.com/The-Corporal-Spiritual-Works-Mercy/dp/0764808400>

FOCUS: 50 Corporal Works of Mercy Ideas. <http://www.focus.org/blog/posts/50-corporal-works-of-mercy.html>

Just Mercy: a Story of Justice and Redemption. Bryan Stevenson.

<http://www.amazon.com/Just-Mercy-Story-Justice-Redemption/dp/081298496X>

Mercy in the City: How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job. Kerry Weber. <http://www.amazon.com/Mercy-City-Hungry-Thirsty-Imprisoned/dp/0829438920>

USCCB: Church Teaching and the Works of Mercy. <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/homiletics/works-of-mercy.cfm>

Working for a Better World. Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo (President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services) <http://www.amazon.com/Working-Better-World-Carolyn-Woo/dp/1612788149>

You Did It to Me: A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC <http://www.amazon.com/You-Did-It-Me-Practical/dp/1596143045>

OTHER PUBLISHED RESOURCES

Be Merciful: Reflections on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. A pamphlet offering insights into the works of mercy. <http://store.pastoralplanning.com/bemeionspcow.html>

Cardinal Oscar Andres Maradiaga Rodriguez: “The Church of Mercy with Pope Francis”. <http://www.scu.edu/ethics-center/events/cardinal-rodriguez-transcript.cfm>

Magnificat – Year of Mercy Companion. <http://bookstore.magnificat.net/booklets/year-of-mercy-companion.html>

The Church of Mercy by Pope Francis (Loyola Press). <https://www.loyolapress.com/the-church-of-mercy-paperback.htm>

Series of Books from Our Sunday Visitor: These books are promulgated by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization and are the official catechetical resources for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Resources for faith formation on a wide variety of mercy-related topics. <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1743>

Titles include:

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Celebrating Mercy.

Confession: The Sacrament of Mercy.

The Parables of Mercy.

The Psalms of Mercy.

Mercy in the Teachings of the Popes.

Mercy in the Fathers of the Church.

The Saints in Mercy.

INTRODUCTION

One way to explore the theme of mercy is through film. Depending on the movie chosen, this could be done as part of a family night, a children's only event, a youth event or an adult's only event.

The list that is included here is, of course, not exhaustive. It is offered only as a starting point for groups who may want to come together during the Year of Mercy, watch a film that touches on this great theme, and then enter into conversation about it. Hopefully, these films will raise provocative questions and move us to be more merciful.

Please note that the coordinator for a faith-sharing group will want to watch a potential film first before taking it to the whole group. Connections to the theme of mercy that may seem obvious to one person might be lost on another. Links are provided to the Internet Movie Database listing of the film as well as the USCCB review (if available) to assist in determining if a movie is right for your group.

Also, please pay attention to the MPAA ratings and the USCCB designations. Not every movie is appropriate for every audience. Use discretion. Be especially aware that some movies listed here have R and A-III or L ratings.

STRUCTURE

Groups should decide how often to meet: once per week, once every two weeks or even once per month are possibilities. The questions provided below are one way to get a conversation started.

Here is one possible approach to structuring your faith-sharing meetings:

1. Allow time for everyone to gather and get settled. Open with the Year of Mercy Prayer.
<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/preghiera.html>
2. Remind people of some of the general principles of small group faith sharing: respectful listening, keeping confidences, etc.
3. Watch the movie.
4. Break for refreshments.
5. Possible discussion questions:
 - a. Where was mercy experienced? By whom?
 - b. Who was merciful? Why?
 - c. What would justice have required, and how is mercy different from justice?

- d. How did the movie help make mercy more concrete for you?
 - e. What questions did the movie raise for you?
 - f. Did the movie challenge you to practice mercy / be more merciful? In what way?
6. The session can close with shared prayer, intercessions, the Lord's Prayer, or in another way upon which the members of the group agree.

MOVIE LISTINGS:

Amazing Grace (PG / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0454776/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/a/amazinggrace07.shtml>

Babe (G / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0112431/?ref=nv_sr_2

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/b/babe.shtml>

Babette's Feast (G / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0092603/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/b/babettesfeast.shtml>

Big Fish (PG-13 / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0319061/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/b/bigfish.shtml>

Big Hero 6 (PG / A-II)

IMDb: (2014) http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2245084/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2014/big-hero-6.cfm>

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG-13 / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0914798/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/b/boyinthestripedpajamas.shtml>

Brave (PG / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1217209/?ref=nv_sr_2

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2012/brave.cfm>

The Butler (PG-13 / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1327773/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2013/lee-daniels-the-butler.cfm>

Calvary (R / L)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2234003/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2014/calvary.cfm>

Charlotte's Web (G / A-I)

IMDb (2006): http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0413895/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/c/charlottesweb06.shtml>

A Christmas Carol (1951; no rating / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0044008/?ref=fn_al_tt_3

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/c/achristmascarol51.shtml>

The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13 / A-II)

IMDb (2002): http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0245844/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/c/countofmontecristo.shtml>

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The Blind Side (Pg-13)

IMDb (2009): <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0878804/>

Dead Man Walking (R / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0112818/?ref=mv_sr_2

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/d/deadmanwalking1995.shtml>

Despicable Me (PG / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1323594/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/d/despicable-me.shtml>

Diary of Anne Frank (1959; no rating / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0052738/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/d/thediaryofannefrank1959.shtml>

Fiddler on the Roof (G / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0067093/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/f/fiddlerontheroof1971.shtml>

Finding Nemo (G / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0266543/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/f/findingnemo.shtml>

Forrest Gump (PG-13 / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/?ref=fn_al_tt_2

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/f/forrestgump1994.shtml>

The Green Mile (R / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120689/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: not reviewed

The Grinch who Stole Christmas (TV movie; 1966)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0060345/?ref=kw_li_tt

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/g/greenmilethe1999.shtml>

Groundhog Day (PG / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0107048/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/g/groundhogday1993.shtml>

The Help (PG-13)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1454029/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

Inside-Out (PG / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2096673/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2015/inside-out.cfm>

Invictus (PG-13 / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1057500/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/i/invictus.shtml>

Jane Eyre (PG-13 / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1229822/?ref=nm_sr_6

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/j/janeeyre2011.shtml>

Les Miserables (PG-13 / A-II [1998] / A-III [2012])

IMDb (1998): http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0119683/?ref=nm_sr_2

USCCB (1998): <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/l/lesmiserables1998.shtml>

IMDb (2012): http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1707386/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB (2012): <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2012/les-miserables.cfm>

Luther (PG-13 / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0309820/?ref=nm_sr_3

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/l/luther.shtml>

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (PG-13 / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2304771/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/m/mandela1997.shtml>

Mansfield Park (PG-13 / A-III)

IMDb (1999): http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0178737/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/m/mansfieldpark1999.shtml>

The Mission (PG / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0091530/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/m/missionthe1986.shtml>

Oliver Twist (PG-13 / A-II)

IMDb (2005): http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0380599/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/o/oliver Twist.shtml>

Pay it Forward (PG-13 / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0223897/?ref=nm_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/p/payitforward.shtml>

Places in the Heart (PG / A-II)

IMDb: (1984) http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0087921/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/p/placesintheheart1984.shtml>

Philomena (PG-13 / L)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2431286/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2013/philomena.cfm>

Priest (1994; R / A-IV[L])

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0110889/?ref=fn_al_tt_2

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/p/priest1995.shtml>

Pride and Prejudice (PG / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0414387/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/p/prideandprejudice.shtml>

The Railway Man (R / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2058107/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2014/the-railway-man.cfm>

Saints and Soldiers (PG-13)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0373283/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: not reviewed

Saving Private Ryan (R / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0120815/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/s/savingprivateryan1998.shtml>

Schindler's List (R / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0108052/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/s/schindlerslist1993.shtml>

St. Vincent (PG-13 / L)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2170593/?ref=nv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2014/st-vincent.cfm>

The Straight Story (G / A-I)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0166896/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/s/straightstorythe1999.shtml>

Sweet Land (PG)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0428038/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

Tender Mercies (PG / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0086423/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/t/tendermercies1983.shtml>

Up (PG / A-I)

IMDb: (2009) <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1049413/>

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/u/up.shtml>

The Woman in Gold (PG-13 / A-II)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2404425/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

USCCB: <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2015/woman-in-gold.cfm>

Yentl (PG / A-III)

IMDb: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0086619/?ref=mv_sr_1

USCCB: <http://archive.usccb.org/movies/y/yentl1983.shtml>



Merciful like the Father

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Dec. 8, 2015 - Nov. 20, 2016

On Divine Mercy Sunday, 2015, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

In the papal bull of indiction *Misericordiae Vultus* ("The Face of Mercy"), Pope Francis announces the jubilee year, but also invites us to reconsider Christian life anew.

“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy.

In doing so, he invites

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction for the Year of Mercy

the faithful to work for those on the margins and to meditate on and live the core of his own pastoral vision, rooted in an invitation to conversion.

Beginning on December 8, 2015, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and to conclude on November 20, 2016, the solemnity of Christ the King, the Church will celebrate an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Jubilee years were part of the Old Testament law. The Catholic Church took up this tradition in the year 1300, and by 1450 ordinary jubilee years were set for every 25 years. Pope Francis’ invitation is an extraordinary jubilee year because we are not due to have another until 2025, falling out of the every 25-years pattern.

Elements of the Jubilee Year

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

During jubilee years, Catholics have the opportunity to seek out special indulgences and confessors are given special faculties. Pope Francis explains in his papal bull that he wants a greater use of the Sacrament of Penance during this year. He wants Lent to be a special time during which parishes offer more opportunities for the sacrament than usual.

DOOR OF MERCY

To welcome the Jubilee, Pope Francis will open the holy door of St. Peter’s, with holy doors of the other papal basilicas to follow. As a sign of communion of the whole Church, the pope has requested that every diocese in the world open a similar “door of mercy”. Bishop Medley will open the “door of mercy” at St. Stephen Cathedral on Sunday, December 13.

PILGRIMAGE

The Holy Father also emphasizes the importance of pilgrimage, reminding us that making a pilgrimage

“represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage.” As Christians, we know this world is not our home. Throughout the holy year, the faithful of our diocese will be given the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to six sites across the Diocese of Owensboro, including the “Door of Mercy” at St. Stephen Cathedral.

A SNAPSHOT: YEAR OF MERCY

- Officially begins on December 8, 2015 and concludes on November 20, 2016.
- A jubilee year is a special year called by the Church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The tradition started about 700 years ago and 26 jubilees have been celebrated since. Of those, only three have been “extraordinary” (including this Year of Mercy).
- The official proclamation of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is called a “bull of indiction” entitled *Misericordiae Vultus* (“The Face of Mercy”) and explains how in Jesus Christ, in his words and actions, the mercy of God has been revealed.
- At the start of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis will open a special holy door at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. It will become “a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.” A local door of mercy will also be opened at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro.
- The theme of the year is “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Living Mercifully

The motto Pope Francis has chosen for this Jubilee Year is “Merciful like the Father”. He calls special attention to the call that each of us has to live merciful lives. Therefore, at the heart of this Jubilee Year is the living out of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

God’s mercy calls us to look upon all God has done for us and reminds

us that we ought to respond in thanksgiving for His mercy and

forgiveness. Pope Francis writes in his letter that the best way for each of us to respond to God’s mercy is to make an effort to practice both the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

“It is my burning desire that the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction for the Year of Mercy

WORKS OF MERCY

The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are tangible ways for us to live and share God’s mercy to those in need.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Visit those in prison.
- Comfort the sick.
- Bury the dead.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

- Give correction to those who need it.
- Instruct the uninformed.
- Counsel the doubtful.
- Comfort the sorrowful.
- Be patient with those in error.
- Forgive offenses.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

- During the Year of Mercy, set yourself the goal of performing at least 10 of the works of mercy listed above. Make it a habit!

In the coming Year of Mercy we are invited to notice Jesus gazing upon us with His mercy through the many acts of forgiveness He has extended to each of us. Contemplating the many acts of mercy that Jesus has extended to each of us, we are to allow His love to change our hearts and create us anew. We

are challenged to see the world as Jesus sees it. An encounter with the mercy of God calls us to recognize ourselves and our brothers and sisters as worthy of God’s love and mercy. And if we are all worthy of God’s forgiveness and mercy, then surely we ought to show this same love and mercy to one another.

During this Jubilee Year, let us pray that God’s mercy will change all of us!

Watch your bulletin and the Western Kentucky Catholic for more information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy.



Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: “If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.