

To the Faithful, Religious, Clergy and Friends of the Diocese of Beaumont:

In union with Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, the Diocese of Beaumont, its faithful, religious, deacons, priests and bishop are pleased to celebrate the ***Jubilee Year of Mercy***, beginning on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and concluding on the Feast of Christ the King, 8 December 2015 - 20 November 2016.

The Pope's document, titled in Latin *Misericordiae Vultus* (*The Face of Mercy*), begins with the good news which transforms human history: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy." The reflection on God's mercy offered by Pope Francis probes the depths of the source of Christian Tradition: Sacred Scripture and the Wisdom of the Church.

I commend the Holy Father's document to you for study, for sharing with your families. It is divided into numbered paragraphs. Perhaps on Sundays, after sharing in the Eucharist, at home the family together reads a paragraph or two and discusses what it means to them at the family dinner. Who can predict what might come from such sharing among parents, children and grandchildren? The website of the diocese provides a link to the document:

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

Below are some of the events for the diocese, the vicariates and the parishes I have set for the Jubilee Year. At the conclusion, there are attachments and English/Spanish resources noted. I encourage your wholehearted participation in the Jubilee celebration.

+Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D., Bishop of Beaumont

1. Diocesan Level

- a. Open the Holy Door for Jubilee of Mercy, Cathedral Basilica, Bishop Curtis Guillory, Sunday, December 13, 2015, 10:00 AM Mass.
- b. Theme for retreats for priests and deacons to be on Mercy, as well as diocesan staff days of recollection in Advent and Lent.
- c. Advertisements on TV; billboards; Bishop's daily TV talks.
- d. All ministry departments to incorporate Mercy theme in their ministries: African American; Criminal Justice; Evangelization and Catechesis; Family Life; Hispanic (Conference theme: "La Misericordia entre los miembros de La Familia"); Schools; Stewardship & Communications; Worship; Tribunal; Youth; Holy Family Retreat Center; Apostleship of the Sea; Lamar Catholic Student Center; and, as well, Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas.
- e. Mercy Sunday Celebration, Noon Mass, Cathedral Basilica, in 2016. Adoration after Mass until Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction at 3:00 PM.
- f. Communal Penance Celebration, Cathedral Basilica, Bishop Curtis Guillory presiding, 6:30 PM, March 16, 2016. (Priests available for confessions.)
- g. Pope Francis' Prayer for Jubilee Year of Mercy (attached). The prayer may be used for meetings, classes, conclusion to the Prayer of the Faithful at Masses, etc. Information is provided regarding purchase of prayer cards.

2. Vicariate Level

- a. At monthly vicariate meetings, priests discuss pastoral suggestions re Mercy and Evangelization in the spirit of *Misericordiae Vultus*.
- b. The episcopal vicar and pastors organize Lenten Penance Services in each parish (neighboring smaller parishes may combine), with the dates spread over several weeks for convenience of the faithful. Dates and times of the Penance Services for parishes within the Vicariate are to be published in the vicariate parish bulletins. (Priests available for confessions.)

3. Parish Level

- a. Priests and deacons frequently focus on Mercy in homilies, especially the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
- b. Scripture and Psalm quotes from *Misericordiae Vultus* (attached) for use in Bible Study and Prayer groups.
- c. *Misericordiae Vultus* (available at USCCB site, 16 pages) suggested for use in Adult Education series in parishes.
- d. Use official "Prayer for The Year of Mercy" in meetings/gatherings.
- e. Parish Lenten Missions to have a theme of Mercy.
- f. The two Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation to be used frequently by celebrants of the Eucharist.

4. **Resources**

- a. www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/current-events.html (Scroll down to "Church Year - Current Events")
- b. Pope Francis Prayer for Mercy Cards:
A 7x5 card with the prayer from www.litpress.org/Products/4744/Pope-Francis-Prayer-for-the-Jubilee-of-Mercy
A 6.5x3.5 card with the prayer from www.PilotPrinting.net
- c. www.aciprensa.com/noticias/etiquetas/ano-de-la-misericordia/
- d. <http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en.html>

5. **Attachment**

Scripture References from *Misericordiae Vultus*
Pope Francis' Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

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