

“*Mercy Meets Need*”

Second Reflection for the Jubilee of Mercy

What Is Mercy?

Let us remind ourselves of what mercy is as we continue this great extraordinary Jubilee Year.

What is Mercy? Mercy is the application of charity to the needs of another person. This means that the act of loving selflessly, as God does, manifests itself by filling up something that is lacking in someone else’s life. God lacks nothing but we lack much.

A Unique Opportunity to Look at Our Lives

The last jubilee year was 15 years ago. Many Catholics experience their faith life most often in the community setting of their home parish. Some Catholics have left that setting due to many reasons: lack of parental participation, movement of the home for economic or other reasons, a feeling of detachment or alienation, an interior questioning of God and the purpose of life or perhaps life just became so busy or personal relationships so demanding that faith took a backseat to other demands. Some become tired with age and others may have come to believe that there are no second chances. Others have been swept into the atheistic view of life which seems to offer less limits on pleasure and unlimited promises to solve personal problems from a new forgiving political and technically accessible multi-societal community.

A jubilee year is a great opportunity for all Catholics to reconsider their view of what God can mean in their lives. It is an appeal from the Church itself for all to consider the great affect of God’s mercy active in the daily turning of the world He has created. The Church is appealing both to those who actively seek God’s mercy through the Church and those who live their lives with no connection at all. *Is there a possibility that you need what God is offering you by participating in this Jubilee year?*

For Those Who Are Active Catholics

For those who seek to be strengthened or renewed in their faith participating in the recommended Jubilee activities will provide leaven for souls already open to graces long available to them in the Church. By joining with the worldwide community of the Church a new sense of optimism and strength through numbers is available to accomplish a common goal which some may have thought they could not accomplish on their own. It also expands the horizon of what can be accomplished beyond the local church by lifting prejudices and past disappointments and supplying the confidence that a church which is the oldest and largest institution on earth is at your disposal. It also has need of your assistance. It is already made up of individuals just like you. The only thing remaining is to offer yourself more completely to fulfill the reason God called you to be one of its own. *Are you willing to give the church the help and enthusiasm that it lacks to accomplish this Jubilee? Are you willing to face what you lack so as to fully seek the Kingdom of God?*

For Those Who Are Inactive or Non-Catholic

Although the Church is calling its own to show the world the face of mercy it does so in order to as Pope Francis says “touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father.” If you have not felt the mercy of God that brings certainty about the mysteries of life, consolation in times of despair, strength beyond yourself in times of testing, peace when love seems lost and joy which transcends the accomplishment of all things earthly then the Church is asking you to do two things. The first is to be willing to accept from outside of you what you lack. The second is to pick up your walking stick and join us for the next year and be not afraid of your journey’s end. *Can you rethink questions that brought no satisfying answers in the past? Can you accept a father that loves you more than you knew?*