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About the Meaning of the 2016 Jubilee of Mercy

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Abstract

this time of distraction, wars, negativity we must remain vigilant and awaken in us the ability to look to the essentials. It is a time for recovering the meaning of the mission that the Lord has entrusted to us during the day of Easter, that is to be sign and instrument of the Father's mercy.

A question is present in our hearts: why right now a Jubilee of Mercy? Simply because the Church, in this time of great upheavals, is called upon to offer more strongly the signs of the presence and closeness of God.

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The special Jubilee of Mercy has been opened on December 8, 2015 and will end on November 20, 2016. Pope Francis spoke about the resurrection of Christ and about tragedies, that are afflicting at this time thousands of faithfuls, remembering the words of the Risen Jesus to his disciples on Easter evening: “Peace be with you”. Peace, especially at this time, is the desire of all people who suffer the unheard violence of discrimination and death at all levels around the world.

Our prayer must be therefore more intense and become a cry for help to the Father which is rich in mercy, for sustaining the faith of brothers and sisters who are in pain; we all must switch from indifference to compassion..

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Pope Francis

Pope Francis emphasized that “Saint Paul reminds us that we have been saved in the mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. He is the Reconciler, live among us for offering the way of reconciliation with God and among the brothers and sisters. Despite the difficulties and sufferings of life, it has to grow the hope of salvation that Christ's love has sown in our hearts”.

The Holy Year must keep alive the desire to grasp the many signs of affection that God offers to the world and especially to

those who are suffering, alone and abandoned, without hope of being forgiven and loved by the Father.

It will be a Holy Year during which we must feel strong in us the joy of being re-found by Jesus, who as the “Good Shepherd” came looking for us because we had lost. It is the Jubilee for feeling the warmth of His love and, transformed by His mercy, for becoming witnesses of mercy.

Jubilee

The Jubilee means then the time of mercy, the favorable time for healing the wounds, to never tire of meeting those who are waiting to see the signs of the nearness of God, for offering to everyone the path of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Pope Francis has also invoked the “Mother of Divine Mercy” to open our eyes, because we understand the commitment to which we are called, that is to live this Jubilee of Mercy with a faithful and fruitful witness.

The Church needs this extraordinary moment. The Jubilee must be a favorable time for all of us, for contemplating the Divine Mercy, which surpasses all human limitations and shines over the darkness of sin.

We must turn our eyes to God, the merciful Father, and to the brothers in need of mercy; this means to focus attention on Jesus, “made flesh Mercy”, which make visible to our eyes the great

mystery of the Trinitarian God. The celebration of a Jubilee of Mercy is equivalent to putting again at the center of our personal lives and in our communities the specific of the Christian faith, that is Jesus Christ, the merciful God.

This is then a Holy Year for living the compassion, for experiencing in our lives the sweet touch of God's forgiveness, His presence beside us and His closeness, especially in this time of greatest need.

The Jubilee is also a special time for the Church to learn to choose only “what God likes more”, that is the forgiveness of us as His children, to have mercy on us, so that we also may in turn forgive the brothers.

The joy of God is to forgive, God is mercy; for this we must open our hearts, so that the love and joy of God fill us with mercy. The Jubilee will be a “favorable time” for the Church if we learn to choose “what God likes more”, without succumbing to the temptation to think that there is something else more important. Even the necessary work of renewal of the institutions and structures of the Church is a medium that should lead us to have a living and life-giving experience of God's mercy.

Mercy

Mercy means to strong feel the joy of being re-found by Jesus, who as the “Good Shepherd” came looking for us because we have moved away from Him and from His love. So we will strengthen our certainty that mercy can really contribute to building a better and more human-focused world. Especially in our time, in which forgiveness is a rare guest in the areas of human life, the call to mercy becomes more urgent, and this is everywhere: in the society, institutions, at work, in the family.

At the root of the separation from mercy there is always the selfish love. In the world it takes the form of the exclusive research of personal interests, pleasures and honors, together with the will to accumulate wealth, while in the life of Christians it is often masqueraded with hypocrisy and worldliness, making mercy a stranger in the world. It is therefore necessary to recognize that we are sinners, to strengthen our certainty in the divine mercy. A beautiful and easy-to-say every day prayer is: “Lord, I am a sinner; come to me with Your mercy”.

The Pope addressed a big greeting to all young people, sick people and newlyweds in the world, remembering that Maria, the Mother of Jesus, teaches young people to welcome in the heart the birth of the Savior, soliciting sick people to always rely on the arms

of Divine Providence and remembering the newlyweds to consider the mercy as criterion of married life.

The Pope addressed a warm welcome to all the Arabic-speaking pilgrims, recalling that the Jubilee is a favorable time for everyone for living the compassion, for experiencing in our lives the God's pardon and for forgiving our brothers and sisters, shining as light of God's mercy in the world.

The hope of the Pope is therefore that in this Holy Year each of us have experience of God's mercy, to be witnesses of “what pleases to Him most”, in order to change the world for the better.

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