

POPE FRANCIS HAS DECLARED THAT THE UNIVERSAL CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL OBSERVE A JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY FROM DECEMBER 8, 2015, TO NOVEMBER 20, 2016. The pope made the declaration on April 11, 2015, in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica. The Holy Door, usually bricked up, is opened during a jubilee year. In the accompanying papal bull, the Holy Father underscored the universal Church’s “responsibility to be a living sign of the Father’s love in the world.”

Jubilee years occur about every 25 years—the last occurred in 2000. These holy years are filled with special celebrations and pilgrimages, strong calls for conversion and repentance, and the opportunity to experience God’s grace through the sacraments, especially confession.

We invite you to use and share the following resources: to participate in the Year of Mercy with your communities, to experience the healing joy of divine mercy and to be vessels of God’s mercy for others.



THE JUBILEE year of mercy
Pope Francis has announced that the universal Catholic Church will observe a Jubilee Year of Mercy from December 8, 2015, to

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY is a two-page primer describing the purpose of jubilee years, Pope Francis’ hopes for the Year of Mercy and how we can all participate.

Included are the scriptural underpinnings to the Church’s teachings on mercy as well as the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, which guide us as Christians in bringing God’s grace into the world.



“VESSELS OF MERCY” is CRS’ prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, asking God’s blessing as he sends us forth as willing vessels of mercy to all, asking that we might move past our reluctance and find the grace to go forth and do his will.

The prayer is suitable for distribution and ideal for praying together in our Christian communities.



THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY: A CRS PRESENTATION FOR CLERGY FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR includes a review of *Misericordiae Vultus*, the bull of indiction for the Year of Mercy, as well as Pope Francis’ teachings on mercy and the Church.

This summary, which will be presented to interested communities by a visiting CRS Global Fellow, also explores the meaning of jubilee years and how mercy is treated in Scripture. Finally, it provides Jubilee Year of Mercy preaching and parish ministry resources.



THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY SLIDESHOW presents images from CRS’ work that correspond with each of the corporal works of mercy. It underscores how these works are highlighted in Church teaching, how they come alive in the works of the Church and her members, and how they are a means of God’s grace in the world.



LIVE MERCY is a series of 90-minute sessions that can be used together or as standalone guides for faith-sharing groups. The series 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 in the Marketplace and Live Mercy in the Halls of Power.

The sessions are designed to be led by adult facilitators.



YEAR OF MERCY HOMILY HELPS is designed to assist homilists in making connections between Luke’s Gospel and the Jubilee of Mercy so that priests and deacons can keep the themes of the jubilee alive in their homilies throughout the next lectionary cycle (Luke). The homily helps have been developed by a CRS Global Fellow.