

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

December 8, 2015 — November 20, 2016



On April 11, 2015, Pope Francis issued a "Papal Bull" announcing a Holy Year of Mercy beginning December 8, 2015. In his document entitled "*The Face of Mercy*," Pope Francis wrote, "If God limited Himself to only justice, He would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected." The Pope stated that he declared a Holy Year of Mercy because "it is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time of offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."

Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics, especially during the Holy Year of Mercy to spend more time practicing the Church's Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy; to experience God's love and mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to offer our forgiveness to others.

During the Holy Year, our Collaborative will celebrate and sponsor the following events:

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Care for the sick
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Bury the dead
- Visit the imprisoned

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- To admonish the sinner (*correct those who need correction*)
- To instruct the ignorant (*teach the ignorant*)
- To counsel the doubtful (*give advice to those who need it*)
- To comfort the sorrowful (*give comfort to those who suffer*)
- To bear wrongs patiently (*be patient with others*)
- To forgive all injuries (*to forgive others who hurt you*)
- To pray for the living and the dead (*to pray for everyone who needs our prayers*)