

## **Year of Mercy Declared by Pope Francis**

Did you know...over 57 million innocent babies have lost their lives since the 1973 passage of Roe vrs. Wade, which legalized abortion in our country! Abortions are being performed on Tuesdays & Thursdays in our neighboring town of Pensacola weekly. Please come to the "Life Chain."

Pope Francis has announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. The Catholic Church calls all to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy!, as pope Francis has cited.

This Holy Year commenced on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, and will conclude on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy.'

The Diocese of Pensacola Tallahassee has selected key parishes as "Holy Door" sites in which faithful can and should pay a visit to the Holy Eucharist in the Tabernacles of each parish. Our parish, St. Margaret's of Scotland has been chosen as one of those special parishes. Bishop Parks has established a Plenary indulgence for each parish that one visits as a "Holy Door" to God's mercy. Perhaps seeking the local priest to hear your confession would be an opportunity for many of us.

Plenary Indulgence for The Year of Mercy (8 December 2015-20 November 2016)

Those who make a pilgrimage to and pass through the Holy Door/Door of Mercy at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome or any of the other Papal Basilicas in Rome; Any Shrine or Jubilee Church in which the Door of Mercy is open; or The Holy Door in every Cathedral or church designated by the Diocesan Bishop. In the Diocese of Davenport, the following are designated as pilgrimage churches:

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart - Pensacola  
Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More - Tallahassee  
Basilica of St. Michael - Pensacola  
St. Patrick - Apalachicola  
St. Dominic - Panama  
St. Mary - Ft. Walton Beach  
St. Margaret of Scotland - DeFuniak Springs  
St. Anne – Marianna

"It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world."

The sick and the elderly who are unable to go on pilgrimage may receive the Jubilee Indulgence by “[l]iving with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial [and] receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication.”

Those who are incarcerated, “may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons.” The Holy Father adds: “May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.”

Those who perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. (“Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one.”)

The deceased. The Holy Father reminds us that we may gain the Jubilee Indulgence not only for ourselves, but for the deceased as well. He states: “...as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.”

Once they have crossed through the Holy Door or Door of Mercy, or have fulfilled one of the other conditions under which Pope Francis has granted the Jubilee Indulgence, in addition to the usual conditions, the faithful should stop in prayer to fulfill the final actions asked for: the profession of faith, and prayer for the Holy Father and his intentions. The latter should be at least an “Our Father.” Taking into consideration the spirit of this Holy Year, it is suggested that pilgrims recite the lovely prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee, and that they conclude the time of prayer with an invocation to the merciful Lord Jesus (for example, “Merciful Jesus, I trust in You”).

#### Definition of and Conditions for an Indulgence

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1471)

“An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”

From the US Catholic Catechism for Adults (p. 244)

“Every sin has consequences. It disrupts our communion with God and the Church, weakens our ability to resist temptation, and hurts others. The necessity of healing these consequences, once the sin itself has been forgiven, is called temporal punishment. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other works of charity can take away entirely or diminish this temporal punishment. Because of the fullness of redemption obtained for us by Christ, the Church attaches to certain prayers and actions an indulgence or pardon, that is, the full or partial remission of temporal punishment due

to sin. Christ, acting through the Church, brings about the healing of the consequences of sin when an individual uses such a prayer or engages in such an action.”

#### Conditions for Gaining a Partial Indulgence

Be baptized, not excommunicated, and in a state of grace.

Have the intention of gaining the indulgence (including being contrite)

Perform the work or offer the prayers as described

For the Year of Mercy— May be obtained more than once per day.

#### Conditions for Gaining a Plenary Indulgence

In addition to the above:

Exclude all attachment to sin

Three conditions:

Go to sacramental confession

Receive Eucharistic Communion

Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father

May only be obtained once per day.

If any component is lacking, the indulgence will be partial.

From Norm 20: A single sacramental confession suffices for several plenary indulgences but receiving Communion and praying for the intention of the Holy Father are re-quired for each indulgence. While the three conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after the performance of the indulgenced work, it is fitting that Communion be received and the prayer for the intention of the Holy Father be said on the same day.

#### Examples of Indulgences The Four General Concessions (or Grants)

A partial indulgence is granted to the Christian faithful who:

while carrying out their duties and enduring the hardships of life, raise their minds in humble trust to God and make, at least mentally, some pious invocation;

led by the spirit of faith, give compassionately of themselves or of their goods to serve their brothers in need;

in a spirit of penance, voluntarily abstain from something that is licit for and pleasing to them; and

in the particular circumstances of daily life, voluntarily give explicit witness to their faith before others.

#### Indulgence at the Point of Death

Among the Specific Concessions or Grants (#12) is the Indulgence grant-ed at the time of death,

which reads:

§1 A priest who administers the sacraments to someone in danger of death should not fail to impart the apostolic blessing to which a plenary indulgence is attached.

§2 If a priest is unavailable, Holy Mother Church benevolently grants to the Christian faithful, who are duly disposed, a plenary indulgence to be acquired at the point of death, provided they have been in the habit of reciting some prayers during their life time; in such a case, the Church supplies for the three conditions ordinarily required for a plenary indulgence.

§3 In this latter case, the use of a crucifix or a cross in obtaining the plenary indulgence is commendable.

§4 The faithful can obtain this plenary indulgence at the hour of death, even if they have already acquired a plenary indulgence on that same day.

§5 The catechetical instruction of the faithful should ensure that they are duly made aware and frequently reminded of this salutary benefaction of the Church.

For details regarding the norms that regulate Indulgences, as well as for a listing of Indulgences, see the Manual of Indulgences (English translation © 2006 USCCB).

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