

JUBILEE OF MERCY

8.XII.2015 – 20.XI.2016



INFORMATION



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Introduction

Pope Francis strongly desires that the upcoming Extraordinary Holy Year be celebrated not just in Rome but in every Particular Church as a sign of unity and charity.

The Holy Father has entrusted the organization of the Jubilee to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization as a concrete sign of the pastoral impetus of this particular moment of grace. It is our role, therefore, to assist the Particular Churches by providing them with guidance and suggestions which may contribute to the successful outcome of their Jubilee initiatives. The call “to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 3), must, in fact, be answered in every part of the world.

As with the opening of the *Door of Mercy*, all of the other special initiatives which will be undertaken by the Holy Father in Rome for the Jubilee may be proposed in each Diocese with analogous initiatives and gestures which are just as meaningful, but always respecting local customs and traditions. This is particularly true of the Jubilee signs that the Holy Father intends to give by witnessing in the first person to the works of mercy.

The aim of this booklet is to provide information and suggestions regarding the principal initiatives for the upcoming Holy Year. It is also an invitation for all Dioceses to work in collaboration in order that the Jubilee may come to bear much fruit.

A publication of this kind, however, can never be exhaustive, nor can it predict the ongoing development of each particular initiative. For this reason it is to be underlined that fuller information will be available on the website of the Jubilee (**www.im.va**)—available in seven languages—which will be constantly updated in order to provide more complete and detailed information.

Vatican City, July 1, 2015

✠ Rino Fisichella
President of the Pontifical Council
for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

Bull of Indiction: *Misericordiae Vultus*

On March 13, 2015, the second anniversary of his election as the Successor of Peter, Pope Francis announced the Extraordinary Holy Year. This is the first Holy Year to celebrate not an anniversary of some kind, but the attribute of God the Father which is most exalted in both the Old and the New Testaments: His Mercy.

The Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee, *Misericordiae Vultus*, given on April 11, casts further light on the Holy Father's initiative, becoming the key to reflection on the Holy Year and the privileged source for information on its implementation.

The degree to which mercy occupies a central place in the pontificate of Pope Francis is clear right from his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium* in which the Holy Father writes: "The Church has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of her own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy" (*EG* 24).

Across the rich pages of *Misericordiae Vultus*—itself a true theological synthesis on mercy—Pope Francis outlines the very course and direction of the Jubilee. Mercy is not an abstract term, but one which expresses the face of God, the daily and concrete actions of Jesus of Nazareth, and the form by which to give convincing expression of the credibility of the Church.

This means that we are each of us called to adhere to the signs of God wherever and in whatever way they are manifested. As the Pope states: "The Church makes herself a servant of this love [of Christ] and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. **In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy**" (*MV* 12).

Regarding the organization of the Holy Year, the Holy Father has stressed that it is to be celebrated first of all in individual Dioceses as an authentic occasion for the renewal of pastoral life.

It is necessary that the best possible expression be given to the spiritual dimension of the Holy Year. The Jubilee is offered to the Church as a provocation, in the positive sense of the term, so as to bring us to understand not only the challenges which face us at this juncture in history, but above all in order to understand the expectations which many of our contemporaries place in us believers. In the first place it is coherence between the proclamation of the Gospel and the lifestyle of those who bear the name of Christ.

NB: The complete text of the *Misericordiae Vultus* is available on the official website of the Jubilee (www.im.va), as well as on the website of the Holy See (www.vatican.va).



GREGORIUS XIII PONT MAX

The Door of Mercy

The Door of Mercy is a special Holy Door which Pope Francis has asked to be opened in every Diocese during the Extraordinary Holy Year in order to allow the faithful in every part of the world to experience the Mercy of the Father in its fullness. In the Bull of Indiction *Misericordiae Vultus*, he writes: “On the same Sunday [Third Sunday of Advent], I decree that in every local church, at the cathedral – the mother church of the faithful in any particular area—**or**, alternatively, at the co-cathedral or another church of special significance, a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year. **At the discretion of the local ordinary**, a similar door may be opened **at any shrine** frequented by large groups of pilgrims, since visits to these holy sites are so often grace-filled moments, as people discover a path to conversion” (MV 3).

It is up to the local Ordinary to determine in which church to open the Door of Mercy. Naturally, it would be opportune if in this same Church priests were always available to hear confessions for the duration of the Jubilee.

Rites for the Opening and Closure of the Door of Mercy

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization has prepared a proposal for both the opening and the closing of the Door of Mercy which has been approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. For more information regarding these Rites, please consult the text *Celebrating Mercy* which is a volume in the series *Merciful Like the Father* which has been prepared as a pastoral resource for the Jubilee. (More information can be found in the section of this booklet on the Pastoral Resources at page 22.)

Indulgence and Conditions

The season of grace which is the Jubilee of Mercy, will naturally be characterized by the possibility of obtaining the plenary indulgence through certain pious exercises culminating in entering through the Holy Door, the Door of Mercy. These pious exercises will accompany the prayer and celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist as concrete signs of conversion and “immersion” in the Mercy of the Father. The conditions for receiving the indulgence will be announced in a Decree by the Apostolic Penitentiary which the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization will help to circulate as widely as possible by sending it directly to the diocesan liaisons who will have registered on the Jubilee website **www.im.va** (see page 9).

Website

This Holy Year is the first to occur in the era of *social networks, tablets, smartphones*, and continuous connection to the web. Regardless of the merits of these technologies, they are in constant use by the majority of the faithful who turn to them to find answers to practically every type of question. Consequently, the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization has set up a website for the Jubilee which can be accessed in seven languages. In doing so, our objectives are twofold:

1. To provide timely and updated information regarding the Jubilee in Rome (the calendar of the principal events involving the Holy Father, the procedures for registering for such events, pastoral suggestions for getting the most out of pilgrimage, logistical services for pilgrims, and so on);
2. To make known and to publicize the Jubilee initiatives which are being organized and promoted in the Dioceses throughout world, beginning with the **reporting of the Door of Mercy in each Diocese** which will be displayed on a world map. In addition, the website will feature the **publication of Pastoral Letters of Bishops** and the **various diocesan programs for the celebration of the Jubilee**.

The website will also feature a special page containing information for pilgrims regarding their stay in Rome, especially regarding the quality and reliability of the services they may wish to access.

Communication

In terms of social media, the achievement of our second objective **will be directly dependent upon the cooperation of the Dioceses**. To this end, each Diocese is invited to select a person from among its staff—clerical, religious or lay—who will be responsible for communications concerning the Jubilee. This named person will have to register on the restricted access area of the website and enter information pertaining to the celebration of the Jubilee in his or her particular Diocese.

He or she will also serve as the **liaison** with Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization to whom the latter will send urgent communications, as well as documents and other resources, by email to a verified address.

For technical support regarding registration, or for whatever other questions may arise, please use the contact form on the website or write directly to the email address for general support which is **info@im.va**.

NB: The restricted access area of the website reserved for Dioceses will be online in September. However, Dioceses are invited to have their liaisons register immediately with the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, following the procedure set about above, in order that they may receive the next communications to be sent.

Social Networks

From the Jubilee website **www.im.va** it is possible to connect immediately with the official pages of the Jubilee on the most important *social networks*. We would recommend, therefore, that communications liaisons make the appropriate connections (*like, follow, add*) between these pages and those of the Diocese in order to encourage the exchange of news and other content (photographs of the celebrations, messages and invitations).



Explanation of the Motto and the Logo

The motto and the logo come together to offer a synthesis of the ideal underlying the Jubilee Year.

The **motto** *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38).

The **logo**—the work of Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik—is in itself a concentrated *summa theologiae* of the theme of mercy. It represents, in fact, an image very dear to the early Church, i.e. the love of Christ who brings the mystery of his incarnation to fulfillment with the redemption. The logo has been conceived in such a way that the Good Shepherd touches humanity's flesh so deeply and with such love as to bring about a radical change. One feature of the logo which cannot fail to emerge is how, having raised humanity onto his shoulders in a gesture which demonstrates extreme mercy, the eyes of the Good Shepherd and those of Adam become united so that Christ sees through the eyes of Adam, and vice-versa. Every man and woman thus discovers in Christ, the new Adam, his or her own humanity and the future to come, contemplating in the eyes of Christ the Father's love.

The scene is set within a *mandorla* (an almond shape), a device dear to early and medieval iconography, which underlines the presence of the two natures—divine and human—in Christ.

The three concentric ovals, progressively lighter in color as they extend towards the outer edge, suggests the dynamic by which Christ carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

Copyright and Use of the Logo

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, on behalf of the Holy See, is the holder of all rights relative to the use of the logo of the Jubilee and gladly grants to all organizations/institutions in the Catholic Church and pastoral agents the permission to use the logo **free of charge** for pastoral, i.e. **not commercial**, purposes as follows:

- For the production of printed materials, multimedia communications, and websites of a pastoral nature, as well as for the express purpose of publicizing the specific initiatives of a Diocese, parish, religious institute or community relative to the celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy;
- For the production of printed materials and multimedia communications to be distributed or shown during meetings, conferences, and at other pastoral initiatives based on the theme of the Jubilee of Mercy or which take place in preparation of or during the Extraordinary Holy Year.

The permission which is granted for the use of the logo, in accord with the above-mentioned cases, is **limited** only to the specific applicant who is responsible for coordinating these activities and may not be granted to any third parties.

Any and all uses of the logo **for commercial and for profit purposes** require the express consent of this Pontifical Council. Please note that the logo is officially registered on the international level and, thus, all violations will be prosecuted in accord with current regulations.

Graphic files. The logo must be used according to the graphical norms which will be provided, along with the graphical files of the logo itself, by the Organizing Secretariat for the Jubilee which be contacted via email at the following address: **info@im.va**.

Translations and Local Adaptations of the Logo

The formulation/production of variations to the logo is not permitted, even if it is thought to be a form of local adaptation to the needs of a Particular Church. The logo serves to identify the Jubilee for the entire Catholic Church, both in its uniqueness and in its totality.

It is, however, permissible to translate the motto, which is an integral part of the logo, from the original Latin: *Misericordes sicut Pater* (cfr. Lk 6:36).

There are, however, already a number of **official translations** in many languages which may be found on the Jubilee website (**www.im.va**) which will be updated accordingly.

Those Dioceses wishing to translate the above-mentioned motto into a different language are kindly asked to contact the Organizing Secretariat via email at **info@im.va** in order to provide this Council with the precise spelling of the motto in the particular language of interest. The Secretariat will then be responsible for inserting the new language text of the motto into the graphical file of the logo and sending it back to the particular Diocese or Dioceses. Every new official translation will then be listed and, subsequently, available on the Jubilee website.

Translation of the Official Hymn and the Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

The norms outlined above also apply to eventual translations into **other languages of both the official Hymn of the Jubilee**, which can be found in English on pages 14-15 and the **Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee**, which can be found in English on page 17. Those Dioceses or Episcopal Conferences who wish to propose a translation into a language not yet provided for are kindly asked to contact the Organizing Secretariat via email at **info@im.va**. Please make sure to **first verify the versions already available** on the Jubilee website (**www.im.va**).

Official Hymn of the Jubilee of Mercy

Misericordes sicut Pater!

Misericordes sicut Pater!

[cfr Lc 6, 36] [motto Jubilee of Mercy]

1. Give thanks to the Father, for He is good

in aeternum misericordia eius

[cf. Ps 135/6]

He created the world with wisdom

in aeternum misericordia eius

He leads His people throughout history

in aeternum misericordia eius

He pardons and welcomes His children

[cf. Lk 15]

in aeternum misericordia eius

2. Give thanks to the Son, Light of the Nations

in aeternum misericordia eius

He loved us with a heart of flesh

[cf. Jn 15,12]

in aeternum misericordia eius

As we receive from Him, let us also give to Him

in aeternum misericordia eius

Hearts open to those who hunger and thirst

[cf. Mt 25,31 ff.]

in aeternum misericordia eius

Misericordes sicut Pater!

Misericordes sicut Pater!

3. Let us ask the Spirit for the seven holy gifts

in aeternum misericordia eius

Fount of all goodness and the sweetest relief

in aeternum misericordia eius

Comforted by Him, let us offer comfort

[cf. Jn 15,26-27]

in aeternum misericordia eius

Love hopes and bears all things

[cf. 1Cor 13,7]

in aeternum misericordia eius

4. Let us ask for peace from the God of all peace

in aeternum misericordia eius

The earth waits for the Good News of the Kingdom

[cf. Mt 24,14]

in aeternum misericordia eius

Joy and pardon in the hearts of the little ones

in aeternum misericordia eius

The heavens and the earth will be renewed

[cf. Ap 21,1]

in aeternum misericordia eius

Misericordes sicut Pater!

Misericordes sicut Pater!

NB: The **score** of the hymn may be downloaded from the Jubilee website (**www.im.va**) in the section dedicated to the logo and the hymn. The **official translations** of the text are already available and may be viewed on the same site. With respect to the possibility of producing **additional translations**, please refer to the indications set out on **page 13 of this text**.



Prayer of the Holy Father for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus,
through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy;
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

NB: The **official translations** of the prayer may be viewed on the Jubilee website (www.im.va). With respect to the possibility of producing **additional translations**, please refer to the indications set out on **page 13 of this text**.

The Missionaries of Mercy

The Missionaries of Mercy will be good and patient priests who are ever understanding of human frailty and always ready to express the spirit of the Good Shepherd in their missions of preaching and hearing confessions. Their ministry will take place **primarily** during Lent in the Jubilee Year, but their services may be requested for the duration of the Jubilee. They will be sent forth by Pope Francis during a celebration on Ash Wednesday in St. Peter's Basilica.

The **characteristics** of the Missionaries of Mercy are described in the Bull *Misericordiae Vultus*, 18. Most importantly, the Missionaries are to be:

- a. A living sign of the Father's welcome to all in search of his forgiveness;
- b. Facilitators for all, with no one excluded, of a truly human encounter, a source of liberation, rich with responsibility for overcoming obstacles and taking up the new life of Baptism again;
- c. Guided by the words, "For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all (Rom 11:32);
- d. Inspiring preachers of Mercy;
- e. Heralds of the joy of forgiveness;
- f. Welcoming, loving, and compassionate Confessors, who are most especially attentive to the difficult situations of each person.

The work of the Missionaries

The Missionaries **will be invited by individual Diocesan Bishops within their particular country** to give missions or facilitate specific initiatives organized for the Jubilee, with a particular attention given to the **celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**. The Holy Father will grant these Missionaries the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.

On a secured and privileged page on the official Jubilee website, Bishops (see page 9) will be able to access a list of available Missionaries, who will be grouped by country and language(s) spoken and contain contact information for each priest so that a Bishop may contact the Missionary directly in order to invite him to his Diocese.

How to become a Missionary of Mercy

The selection of those candidates to be presented to the Holy Father as Missionaries to be sent forth on Ash Wednesday is reserved to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. Those priests who wish to participate in this special service—one which will require their services only during the period of time requested by the Diocese or parish making the invitation—are asked to fill out the application form “To become a Missionary” which can be found on the official Jubilee website (**www.im.va**). The selection of Missionaries will, however, take place in consultation with the respective local Ordinaries or Religious Superiors.

Therefore, every Missionary must have a letter of recommendation from his local Ordinary or Religious Superior which testifies to his suitability for this particular mission.

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization will ensure that all those Missionaries selected will have the opportunity to participate in the Ash Wednesday Service, at which time the Holy Father will confer upon them their special mandate. This Pontifical Council will also work to provide financial assistance in order to offset the travel costs of those in economic need.

Volunteers for the Jubilee

All Volunteers for the Jubilee, those desiring to welcome pilgrims from all over the world to Rome, must be 18 years or older and be willing to offer their services for a period of at least one week, or, in the case of a special event, for a period of four days. The Volunteers will be responsible for welcoming pilgrims at the various meeting points and for sharing with them information regarding the many services which are available to them. The Volunteers will also accompany the pilgrims along the reserved routes for entrance into the Papal Basilicas by way of the Holy Door and serve to ensure that this moment of prayer is not disturbed. They will also be asked to assist in other areas of service that may be necessary according to the unique circumstances. It is preferred that Volunteers should be able to express themselves in more than one language in order to assist as many pilgrims as possible coming from the different parts of the world. They should have at least a basic knowledge of Italian in order that they are able to communicate with the coordinating managers for the various services, the other volunteers, and the Italian public security officials.

All Volunteers for the Jubilee must provide for their own transportation to and from Rome, with the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization providing solely for room and board, as well as insurance against accidents during their service.

NB: Those wishing to be Volunteers from countries subject to Visa requirements for entry into Italy are responsible for obtaining a visa that will allow them to come to Rome and remain for the duration of their service. The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization will not send letters of invitation to Volunteers. The Dioceses of these same countries wishing to send a group of young people for this experience of service may refer to pages 26-27 of this document where details regarding the process for requesting visas for diocesan pilgrimages are set out.

How to become a Volunteer for the Jubilee

The principal task of the Volunteers is to assist the pilgrims. This requires a particular spirit of service and guarantees as to their trustworthiness for undertaking this important task. In order to become a Volunteer, therefore, a recommendation is required either from one's parish priest or from the local head of one's ecclesial movement. Seminarians and novices who wish to volunteer must be presented by their rector or superior.

In the coming months, there will be a section of the Jubilee website (**www.im.va**) reserved for Volunteers which will contain all of the pertinent information.

In order to gain access to this page, prospective Volunteers will have to register on the site. After registering, they will be provided with a username and password which will allow them to fill out the application form in the section “**Become a Volunteer**”, providing us with their personal information. It will be necessary to scan and then send copies of a number of documents: identity card or passport (containing visa, if required), a head-shot photo as used for a passport, a letter of recommendation from among those possible references listed above (parish priest, director, rector, etc.) which contains such contact information necessary (preferably an email address) by which the people offering the references may be reached in order to verify the information submitted.

Once the completed registration form has been submitted electronically, it will be reviewed by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. All further information will be emailed directly to the candidate upon acceptance.

Pastoral Resources for Living the Jubilee

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization has overseen the publication of a Series of individual works, each of which addresses the theme of mercy from a unique perspective. These texts will be engaging resources for all pastoral workers, both for their own personal enrichment, as well as for their preparations for meetings, catechetical sessions, and also for community prayer.

The Series consists of eight volumes:

- Celebrating Mercy;
- The Psalms of Mercy;
- The Parables of Mercy;
- Mercy in the Fathers of the Church;
- The Saints in Mercy;
- Mercy in the Teachings of the Popes;
- The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy;
- Confession: the Sacrament of Mercy.

All eight volumes will provide useful insights which will greatly assist in the organization of original initiatives for the Holy Year. In this regard, special attention should be paid to the volume, entitled *Celebrating Mercy* which contains specific indications as to the ways in which the Jubilee may be celebrated in the Particular Churches, with special sections on **the Rites for the opening and closure of the Door of Mercy**, which have been devised by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization and approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

These pastoral aids will be on sale beginning in September in Italian (Ed. San Paolo), English (Our Sunday Visitor Publishing), Spanish (Ed. San Pablo), Portuguese (Paulus Editoria), German (Schwabenverlag), and Polish (Wydawnictwo Sw. Stanislaw BM).

If an Episcopal Conference desires to undertake or promote the publication of these pastoral aids in a language not listed above, they are to contact this Pontifical Council to determine the feasibility of the project in light of the proper handling of copyrights and distribution on the part of the Publishers.

NB: Dioceses or Episcopal Conferences are free to translate **only the Rites for the opening and closure of the Door of Mercy into those languages which are not already available in the official editions of the pastoral resources.**

In these cases, we would kindly ask that the translations of the Rites be sent to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization in order that we can offer them to other Churches who may request them.

Pilgrimage to Rome

While the Jubilee is to be celebrated primarily on the local level, that is in every Particular Church around the world, we are nonetheless expecting that a large number of pilgrims will travel to Rome to make a pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Apostle Peter and to enter through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica which represents the very heart of the Catholic Church.

In order to welcome each pilgrim who arrives in Rome, an impressive organizational structure has been set in motion in a brief period of time, one which will continue to develop in the months ahead in order to provide programs and initiatives which we hope will be of service to pilgrims. All of these important details will be updated regularly on the Jubilee website (**www.im.va**). Here we list those services and programs which have already been confirmed.

Pilgrimage routes

In order for pilgrims to have the opportunity to make a true pilgrimage through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, making at least one part of the journey on foot down a stretch of road, a **special walkway will be reserved to be used only by pilgrims**. This reserved walkway will begin at Castel Sant'Angelo, continue down Via della Conciliazione, traverse the Pius XII Square, extend through St. Peter's Square and conclude at the Holy Door.

Access to this walkway will be reserved only for those **registered pilgrims**.

To this end, all pilgrims wishing to enter the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica must register in advance of their pilgrimage on the section of the Jubilee website dedicated to this purpose (**www.im.va** - "Pilgrim Registration"). All pilgrims will be asked to provide personal data and contact information, as well as the desired date and time of their pilgrimage through the Holy Door. At the entrance to the reserved walkway, pilgrims will be required to present the confirmation number of their registration which will be provided to them when they have registered.

The proposed journey will also be integrated with services to be provided at three churches in the Historic Center of Rome: San Salvatore in Lauro, Santa Maria in Vallicella (Chiesa Nuova) and San Giovanni Battista dei Fiorentini. In these three churches there will be the continuous presence of priests to hear Confessions in a number of languages, moments for Eucharistic Adoration, and, in particular instances, catechetical sessions on the theme of mercy in order to prepare pilgrims to enter the Holy Door with a spirit of conversion. These three churches will be linked with the reserved walkway to St. Peter's.

On the occasion of the Jubilee, it is our intention, as well as that of the Italian public authorities, to make available and secure other historic pilgrimage routes in Rome (the “Seven Churches” of St. Philip Neri) and towards Rome (the *Via Francigena*, the *Romea*, and other historic routes).

The Reception of Pilgrims

A welcome/reception center will be set up and staffed by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization at 7 Via della Conciliazione (along the reserved walkway for access into the Basilica), for the entirety of the Holy Year. In addition to providing pilgrims with information, this will be the only location at which one may:

1. Register *in extremis*, if they have not already done so previously through the Jubilee website and which is obligatory in order to enter the reserved walkway for pilgrims to enter through the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica;
2. Obtain the official certificate of pilgrimage participation which attests to entrance through the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica (this is distinct from any other certificates which may be provided by the other historic routes mentioned above);
3. Obtain the *testimonium* which certifies, instead, that one has arrived in Rome on pilgrimage by foot by way of the above-mentioned historic routes.

In the gardens around Castel Sant’Angelo (where the reserved walkway for pilgrims begins) a service area will be set up offering snacks and drinks at controlled prices.

Other informational points (Infopoint ORP) will be provided by Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi at Fiumicino airport, at the Termini and Tiburtina train stations, as well as at other locations in the vicinity of St Peter’s Square.

Pilgrims with disabilities and other specific medical needs

While making a pilgrimage to the other Papal Basilicas of Rome (St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls) does not require registration, all four Basilicas will have volunteers present during the Jubilee in order to assist pilgrims, as well as trained staff to assist those with disabilities. All will be equipped with a first-aid post as well.

It is important when registering to inform us of any and all particular medical conditions requiring the likes of dialysis, oxygen, insulin, etc., in order that we may provide statistical information to the Italian medical authorities.

Visas for Pilgrims

Pilgrims coming from those countries which do not fall within the scope of the Schengen Agreement, and who are thus required to obtain a tourist visa not exceeding 90 days in order to enter Italy, must obtain the visa from the competent Italian diplomatic mission (Italian Consulate) in their country of origin. The process for acquiring this visa is quite lengthy, complex, and at a fee. However, to assist pilgrims during the Jubilee with this process, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established a procedure to facilitate the process for those groups which will be participating in pilgrimages organized specifically by Dioceses. Naturally, the controls and information which will be shared with the Italian Embassy or Consulate must be guaranteed by the Diocese organizing the pilgrimage.

There is a section of the Jubilee website (**www.im.va**) which contains more detailed and updated information on this theme (Pilgrimage > Information for Pilgrims).

The general procedure for acquiring the visa is as follows:

- A local representative is to be selected by the Diocesan Bishop to serve as the **local Manager** of pilgrimages for the Jubilee. This person will interact directly with the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization;
- This local manager is responsible for submitting all of the names of those pilgrims who will be participating to both the competent Italian diplomatic representative (Italian Consulate) in the relevant country and to the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization (in this case through the Apostolic Nunciature);
- The Pontifical Council will verify the origin of the list and then submit it to the Center for Visas of the Italian Foreign Ministry which will then undertake of the necessary checks;
- All those pilgrims that have not been excluded from the list for any reason will be granted a special visa on the occasion of the Jubilee. This is a variation of the normal tourist visa which will be valid only for the duration of the pilgrimage;
- All other information regarding the pilgrimage (departure and return dates, eventual stop-overs or stays during the trip, as well as the locations of lodging with booking confirmation numbers) are to be submitted by the local manager along with the complete list of pilgrims;
- If, for any reason, a person who participated in the pilgrimage fails to re-enter the country of origin, the local Manager is to inform the Pontifical Council, as we are required to report any and all such cases to the Italian authorities.

Considering the sensitivity of this matter—with respect to national security and the implications for immigration—it is important to underscore that:

- According to regulations, all pilgrims requesting the visa must submit their fingerprints. It will be the responsibility of the local Manager to facilitate this process with the competent local Italian diplomatic representative in order that it be as easy as possible;
- Among the requirements for acquiring the visa is that each applicant must demonstrate participation in a health insurance plan which can be used to cover any medical or hospital costs incurred when in Italy. The local Manager will verify that this health insurance, in accord with the Schengen norms, has been included in the pilgrimage “travel package”;
- Unaccompanied minors will not be granted a visa. Thus, every minor is required to have a designated and authorized chaperone who is responsible for the minor throughout the duration of the pilgrimage;
- When presenting the list of pilgrims requesting visas, the local Manager assumes a major responsibility with respect to the Italian authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior) and the Holy See. It is therefore important to stress that great vigilance be exercised in applying for visas only for those who intend to make the pilgrimage to Rome and subsequently return to their home country.

Medical Care for Pilgrims.

The Italian Government is currently studying the possibility of providing free-at-the-point-of-use **urgent** medical care to pilgrims while they are on pilgrimage, upon the prior payment of a single fee. This form of care may be provided to:

- those **pilgrims required to obtain the visa** for entry into Italy (**in addition to the medical insurance** that is required for entrance into the Schengen zone);
- **all those pilgrims** coming from countries which do not have a special agreement with Italy on this matter (roughly speaking, those coming from countries not in the European Union).
- More information regarding this matter, including a list of concerned countries, will be published on the website **www.im.va** (in the section Pilgrimage).

The Calendar of Major Events for the Jubilee

DECEMBER 2015

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Mass for the Opening of the Holy Door
of St. Peter's Basilica.
St. Peter's Square

Sunday, December 13, 2015

III Sunday of Advent

Opening of the Holy Doors of the Basilicas
of St. John Lateran and St. Paul Outside the
Walls and of the Cathedrals of the World.

JANUARY 2016

Friday, January 1, 2016

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

World Day for Peace.

Opening of the Holy Door of the
Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

Tuesday, January 19 - Thursday 21, 2016

Jubilee for those Engaged in Pilgrimage Work.

FEBRUARY 2016

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Ash Wednesday

Sending forth of the Missionaries of Mercy,
St. Peter's Basilica.

Monday, February 22, 2016

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

Jubilee for the Roman Curia, the Governorate
and the Institutions connected
with the Holy See.

**Jubilee sign of the Holy Father:
witness of the works of mercy.**

MARCH 2016

Friday, March 4 - Saturday 5, 2016

"24 Hours for the Lord"

with a penitential liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica
on the afternoon of Friday, March 4.

APRIL 2016

Friday, April 1 - Sunday 3, 2016

Divine Mercy Sunday

Jubilee for those who are devoted
to the spirituality of Divine Mercy.

Saturday, April 23 - Monday 25, 2016

V Sunday of Easter

Jubilee for young boys and girls (ages 13 – 16)
To profess the faith and construct
a culture of mercy.

**Jubilee sign of the Holy Father:
witness of the works of mercy.**

MAY 2016

Thursday, May 5, 2016

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

"Dry the tears"

Prayer Vigil for all those in need of consolation.

Friday, May 27 - Sunday 29, 2016

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi in Italy

Jubilee for deacons.

JUNE 2016

Wednesday, June 1 - Friday 3, 2016

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Jubilee for priests.

160 years since the introduction of the

Feast by Pius IX in 1856.

Friday, June 10 - Sunday 12, 2016

XI Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jubilee for those who are ill and for persons with disabilities.

**Jubilee sign of the Holy Father:
witness of the works of mercy.**

JULY 2016

Tuesday, July 26 - Sunday 31, 2016

*To conclude on the XVIII Sunday
of Ordinary Time*

Jubilee for young people.

World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

SEPTEMBER 2016

Friday, September 2 - Sunday 4, 2016

XXIII Sunday of Ordinary Time

Memorial of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

September 5

Jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy.

Friday, September 23 - Sunday 25, 2016

XXVI Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jubilee for catechists.

OCTOBER 2016

Friday, October 7 - Sunday 9, 2016

Friday, Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary
Marian Jubilee.

NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday, November 6, 2016

XXXII Sunday of Ordinary Time

In St. Peter's Basilica, the Jubilee for prisoners.

Sunday, November 13, 2016

XXXIII Sunday of Ordinary Time

Closing of the Holy Doors in the Basilicas of Rome and in the Dioceses of the world.

Sunday, November 20, 2016

*Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe*

Closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy.



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