

## Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

### Fact Sheet

On March 13, the second anniversary of his election to the Papacy, Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Jubilee, or Holy Year, of Mercy. He went on to write about the Jubilee in more detail in the Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus* (MV), released on the Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday ([www.im.va](http://www.im.va)).

Some important points about the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy:

- This is the first Jubilee promoting a *theme* rather than occurring at an established interval or observing an anniversary, e.g., humanity's redemption. (The recent Year of the Priest and Year of Consecrated Life were not Jubilee Years.)
- The Jubilee begins this December, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and concludes in 2016 on the Solemnity of Christ the King (November 20).
- The Jubilee is a natural development of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel), as well as a continuing celebration of Vatican Council II; the opening of the Jubilee coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council's conclusion. "The Church feels a great need to keep this event [i.e., the Council] alive" (MV, 4).
- The Jubilee should not be seen as a strictly "Roman" event, with the faithful primarily encouraged to make a pilgrimage to Rome; it is meant to be celebrated in every diocese.
- Every diocese is encouraged to open a Holy Door, or "Door of Mercy," in its cathedral and in other churches of special significance.
- The Jubilee's motto, "Merciful like the Father," is taken from the segment of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain where he urges his disciples to love their enemies and to love without expectation of repayment: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36).
- The background on the Jubilee's motto and logo are explained on the Jubilee's website: [www.im.va](http://www.im.va). The website is available in seven languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish.
- In Rome, special celebrations will be held throughout the Jubilee for particular groups, including: charitable volunteers, youth and young adults, priests, deacons, catechists, those who are sick and disabled and their caregivers, and those in prison. Dioceses may want to have similar events.

- The whole season of Lent during the Jubilee Year should be “lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy” (*MV*, 17).
- The initiative “24 Hours for the Lord,” i.e., confessors being available from Friday evening to the Saturday evening prior to the Fourth Sunday of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese.
- Pope Francis plans to give “concrete,” “direct testimony” of the Church’s “affinity and care for the poor, the suffering, the marginalized, and all those who need a sign of tenderness.” Bishops and priests are asked to do the same in their dioceses and parishes (Presentation on the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy by Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization).