
Third Sunday of Easter April 19, 2015

Pastor's Column

*Rev. Michael Ratajczak
760-758-4100 x100
michaelr@stmoside.org*

A Holy Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has recently announced an extraordinary Jubilee dedicated to Divine Mercy. In doing so, Pope Francis said:

“Dear Brothers and Sisters, I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy. It is a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. For this reason, I have decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this Year in the light of the Lord’s words: ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36)’

The Holy Year will begin on this coming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8, 2015) and will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe—and the living face of the Father’s mercy.

I entrust the organization of this Jubilee to the Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelization, that (the dicastery) might animate it as a new stage in the journey of the Church on its mission to bring to every person the Gospel of mercy.

I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time. From this moment, we entrust the Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she might turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey.”

Pope Francis also said:

“The call of Jesus pushes each of us never to stop at the surface of things, especially when we are dealing with a person. We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart to see how much generosity everyone is capable. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church is **the house that welcomes all and refuses no one**. Its doors remain wide open, so that those who are touched by grace can find the certainty of forgiveness. The greater the sin, so much the greater must be the love that the Church expresses toward those who convert.”



Fr. Mike