

The Face of Mercy: Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy by Pope Francis

Publisher: Pauline Books and Media (June 2015)

Amazon cost: Kindle \$4.95 Paperback \$5.95 -- FREE at Vatican.va

The Face of Mercy: Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (Misericordiae Vultus), was issued by Pope Francis outlining his intentions and hopes for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which will begin December 8th, 2015. Pope Francis, beloved for his down-to-earth understanding of pastoral life, recommends that this Holy Year become a time for each person to grow rich in "living out in our daily lives the mercy" which God "constantly extends to all of us." Always the pastor of souls, he reminds us that mercy makes demands of us and offers suggestions so that everyone, lay and ordained, may give concrete expression to mercy in words and deeds. In this way we may all become "merciful like the Father," the motto of this extraordinary Holy Year. To deepen our understanding of mercy, the document develops three main themes. First, the theological understanding of mercy is accessibly explained, along with its foundational role in the lives of individuals and in the pastoral ministry of the Church. Secondly, practical suggestions for living out the Holy Year are offered, ranging from making a pilgrimage to refraining from judgment and gossip. Lastly, specific appeals for conversion and the acceptance of God's mercy are made to those involved in corruption on various levels. The Catholic Church's tradition of Holy Years dates back 700 years. Until now, the Church has celebrated 25 jubilees, but only two "extraordinary" jubilees. Pope Francis, with The Face of Mercy, has now proclaimed the third extraordinary jubilee, which will come to a close on November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

The Gaze of Mercy: A Commentary on Divine and Human Mercy by Raniero Cantalamessa

Paperback: 184 pages

Publisher: Word Among Us Press (November 2, 2015)

Amazon cost: Kindle \$9.99 Paperback \$14.95

Just in time for the Holy Year of Mercy, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the papal household, delves into the mystery of mercy, both human and divine. Jesus is "the mercy of God who became flesh", and it is his gaze of mercy that transforms us. Among the Gospel passages he explores are Jesus encounters with Zacchaeus and the woman caught in adultery as well as the passion of Jesus, "the height of God's mercy", and his resurrection, the "triumph of God's mercy". He also reminds us that just as we are recipients of God's mercy, we are called to be merciful to others. Insightful and inspiring!

God's Healing Mercy by Kathleen Beckman

Paperback: 184 pages

Publisher: Word Among Us Press (November 2, 2015)

Amazon cost: Kindle \$9.99 Paperback \$14.69

A heart in need of healing is carrying a heavy burden. As we struggle to overcome fear, anxiety, loneliness, shame, trauma, and sin, we also dream of being well loved. Only Jesus can heal your heart and offer inexhaustible love, and He stands ready to open the floodgates of His mercy upon your aching soul. In God's Healing Mercy, experienced retreat master and trained spiritual director, Kathleen Beckman, offers a guide for a personal or group healing retreat based on Divine Mercy in Scripture and in the lives of the Saints. She will show you how Divine Mercy can heal festering wounds and universally transform your life. You will learn how to confront your weaknesses, and you will create a plan for letting God's mercy heal your heart and make straight your crooked ways. You will meet saints along the way who overcame deep-seated wounds and became a mighty vessel of God's mercy. Each chapter concludes with powerful, yet practical, spiritual exercises and discussion questions to foster inner healing through group or personal reflection, leading you . . .

- From unforgiveness to forgiveness
- From fear to trust
- From anxiety to peace
- From shame to mercy
- From pride to humility
- From powerlessness to prayer
- From sin-sickness to the Eucharist
- From spiritual weakness to the Beatitudes
- From worldliness to works of mercy
- From spiritual warfare to Christ's victory

The Holy Year of Mercy: A Faith-Sharing Guide With Reflections by Pope Francis

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Word Among Us Press (August 25, 2015)

Amazon cost: Kindle \$9.23 Paperback \$10.00

Pope Francis has focused on the theme of God's mercy since the beginning of his pontificate. Now he has declared an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, a holy year beginning on December 8, 2015 and lasting until the feast of Christ the King on November 20, 2016. This faith-sharing guide will give readers, and even entire parishes, an opportunity to participate in this holy year in a meaningful way. Each of the eight sessions features a Gospel passage followed by a homily on that passage given by Pope Francis. Questions for reflection and discussion focus on both the Scripture text and the homily. Related Scripture passages are included, as well as an action step that can be used to grow in the practice and understanding of God's mercy.

Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J.

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor (June 2, 2015)

Amazon cost: Kindle \$8.49 Paperback \$9.95

Fr. Pacwa's Bible studies for Catholics have captivated parish study groups for years. He takes vast topics like the Eucharist, Mary, and the Faith, and breaks them down into useful and accessible lessons we can carry with us always. Now in his new book *Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics* Fr. Pacwa leads us to a deeper understanding of mercy through the study of Israel's long, slow struggle to experience mercy. By looking carefully at their experience of turning away and returning to God, we begin to understand that God's love, shown through His mercy, is more powerful than sin. Perfect for a parish small group study, or for personal reflection, each of the six sessions in *Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics* will help us rediscover the incredible history of God's mercy in our own lives, which in turn will lead us to an understanding of the importance of extending God's love and mercy to the world around us.

Pastoral Resources for Living the Jubilee Year of Mercy by Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization.

- **Celebrating Mercy**
- **The Psalms of Mercy**
- **The Parables of Mercy**
- **Mercy in the Fathers of the Church**
- **The Saints of Mercy**
- **Mercy in the Teaching of Popes**
- **The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy**
- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Experience of Mercy**

Paperback: 128 pages each

Publisher: Our Sunday Visitor (Oct. – Nov., 2015)

Amazon cost: Kindle \$8.49 Paperback \$9.95 each

This series of eight books, promulgated by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, are the official catechetical resources for the Jubilee Year. Pope Francis will be speaking on these themes in his weekly catechesis throughout the year. FREE PDFs of the study guides are available on the OSV website individually or one guide for all: <https://www.osv.com/portals/4/documents/pdf/stdygdes-yearofmercy-osv.pdf>