

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis is welcoming us into a Year of Mercy, a year to enhance our witnessing of God's merciful love. This Year of Mercy runs from December 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception until November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King. As part of this Year of Mercy, each month our linked parishes will be taking a closer look at the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and how we can and do apply them to our lives. But a question needs to be answered first, "What is mercy?" Webster's Dictionary defines mercy as 'a compassion or forbearance shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power.' As a disciple, mercy needs to be more than feeling sorry for someone, it is walking in their shoes, looking at things through their eyes. It is about compassion and forgiveness. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy help us to put these feelings into action.

DECEMBER 2015 – The Corporal Works of Mercy: Feed the Hungry & Give Drink to the Thirsty



These two separate and distinct works are closely linked. Listed below are ways we can engage ourselves and our families with these Corporal Works.

Feed the Hungry:

Prepare and eat meals together as a family

Prepare food for or work at a soup kitchen/homeless shelter

Take your children to the grocery store, purchase items for a food pantry and drop them off at the pantry

Prepare a meal for a shut in, a family struggling with an illness or for a family with a new baby

Take a friend out for lunch

Supporting projects to provide food to poor countries

Give Drink to the Thirsty:

Pass out water bottles to the homeless

Support clean water projects

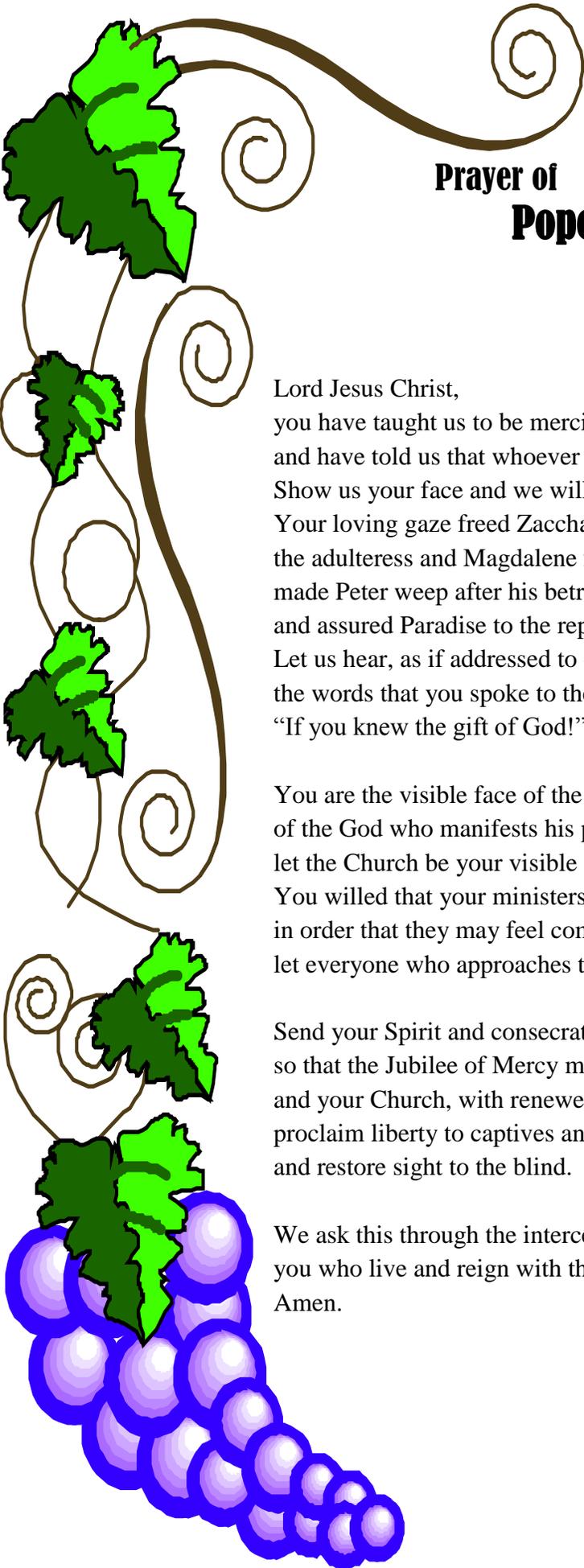
Conserve water by taking shorter showers, using your washer and dish water only when full, or fixing leaking faucets

Take a glass of water to neighbor doing yard work

Properly disposing of medicines and chemicals to avoid contaminating water supplies

Donate baby formula to local pregnancy help centers

What action can you do this month to "Feed the Hungry and Give Drink to the Thirsty?"



Prayer of Pope Francis 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 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.

