



JUBILEE: THE YEAR OF MERCY

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Jubilee year begins this December 8th, which will be dedicated to the central attribute of God's heart: **mercy!** It began at the time of the formation of the Jewish people by proclaiming a year of mercy during which all debts were forgiven. In addition, any land that was lost/foregone was returned to the people that originally owned them.

Imagine how different society and world we live in would be if we took this approach more often. It would be as if your bank forgave your credit debt or returned your foreclosed house, first world countries forgiving less developed countries their external debt.

Indeed, God does forgive *all* of our offenses and *all* our debts. Naturally, we're talking about debt caused by offenses toward God, such as being forgiven debts of abuse we've caused toward ourselves, others, and the planet Earth. By the way, today I was told about a post on Facebook that says: "be very careful with what Pope Francis says because

the Pope is "new age!" These types of comments, lacking in any theological training, stir my head and stomach. Francis is incarnating the Gospel in a way that many non-Catholics and non-Christians are listening and paying attention to the proposals he makes



about life in Jesus. I have witnessed it in the classroom, where I teach college students of different denominations, non-practicing Catholics, Buddhists, people of the Islamic religion, Taoists, and all of them are fascinated to hear and watch what is being said and done by Pope Francis.

Yes! It is a new era being born as product of the new evangelization, where the message of God's unconditional love is placed at

the Center, and all are invited and welcomed. All!

We have wasted so much time judging the worthiness of others, deciding who has (or doesn't) the 'right' to receive God's mercy and the

medicine which is His body in the Eucharist.

And then we wonder why so many Catholics no longer live their Christian faith. The good news is that there is a fresh wind, a Pentecostal wind, a new manifestation of the Holy Spirit which reminds us what Jesus came to teach: **LOVE.**

During this year of Jubilee, the Pope asks us to overemphasize the center of the Gospel, which is mercy.

The truth of the Christian faith is not only found in philosophical, theological or doctrinal concepts, but in a person: **Jesus.** If one has encountered Jesus and centers on his mercy, every step is a good step. "Be merciful as your father is Merciful," Jesus tells us.

It is time that we leave behind the Apologetics and the desire to prove who holds the absolute truth. God has it, and His truth is always accompanied by beauty and goodness. The truth of God's heart is tenderness, visceral love that is born from the depths of the Trinity and overflows in all His creation. **That love is for you. Look for it. Open yourself. Wait for it.**

Happy new year of grace and mercy!



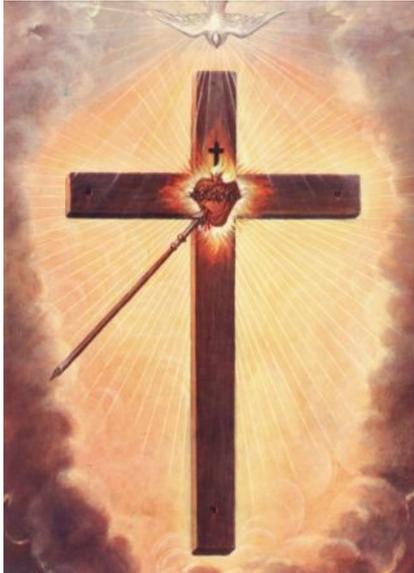


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January 14, 2016

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At 7:00 PM

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With Antonio Ramirez, Ph.D.

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What is the “Apostolate of the Cross”?

It is a group of baptized Catholics that seek to live the Gospel of Christ, having as a distinctive feature its attitude of total offering to God in everyday life in favor of their brothers.

What is the purpose Apostolate of the Cross?

Through the experience of the spirituality of the cross, we are invited to spread the reign of the Holy Spirit, which is justice, peace, truth, and love, through:

- The offering of all our life's situations to God as Jesus Priest's example which transforms our lives into one continuous offering which is pleasant to God for the benefit of our brothers.
- The experience of our daily reality, family, school, work, friends, etc., seeking to imitate Christ's feelings and attitudes.
- Active participation with our work and prayer in favor of the priests' mission.

What does the “Apostleship of the Cross” mean?

- To find your full realization as a person and Christian today.
- A space of brotherhood and coexistence, where we live with joy, faith, God's Word and prayer.
- A community that seeks the reflection and the integral formation of the person.
- A great opportunity to share your gifts, putting them at the service of others.
- The possibility of carrying out actions of Apostolate for the service of the Church.