

Service in the Year of Mercy

Diocese of La Crosse

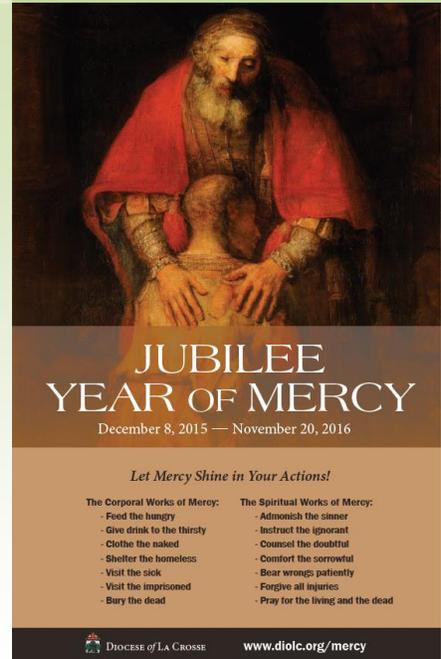
There has been a lot going on in our diocese regarding this new Year of Mercy! Members of the curia staff got together and wrote a book of reflections; one for each day of the month. These were distributed to parishes at the opening of the Holy Doors at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse on December 13th. In addition to this, we have been posting daily reflections on facebook! Please follow the Diocese of La Crosse. But wait! That's not all!!!! Remember when we switched from the Catholic Times newspaper to Catholic Life magazine? With the change, we are now able to have the MyParish app on our cellular devices! We are working on getting our daily reflections to be available nationwide!

Please go to our website www.dioc.org/mercy to learn about pilgrimage parishes, prayers, acts of mercy and so much more!



National Council of Catholic Women Service Commission

I am currently a member of the National Council of Catholic Women's Service Commission. Please watch for more information as we work on the areas of Immigration, Respite, and Human Trafficking! www.NCCW.org



Dates to note:

Friday, January 22, 2016

Day of Prayer and Penance for Offences Against Life. Holy Hour for Life

Monday, February 8, 2016

Feast of Saint Bakhita and Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking

Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl collection begins.

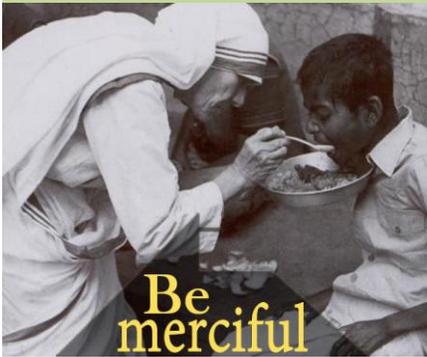
Thursday, February 11, 2016

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick

Friday, March 4 "24 Hours for the Lord"

Sunday, March 27, 2016

The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday)



Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

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| † Feed the Hungry | † Admonish the Sinner |
| † Give Drink to the Thirsty | † Instruct the Ignorant |
| † Clothe the Naked | † Counsel the Doubtful |
| † Shelter the Homeless | † Comfort the Sorrowful |
| † Visit the Sick | † Bear Wrongs Patiently |
| † Visit the Imprisoned | † Forgive Injuries |
| † Bury the Dead | † Pray for the Living and the Dead |

Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven. ~ Pope Francis

Human Trafficking and the Super Bowl

The worst day of the year for incidences of human trafficking around the world is the Super Bowl. This year it will be in the San Francisco Bay area on February 7th.

When the Superbowl was in Miami a few years ago, over 10,000 prostitutes were brought into the city for “entertainment,” but it doesn’t stop there... Chicago arrested over 250 men for such “parties.”

Please join me in 9 days of prayer for victims of human trafficking beginning on January 30 and ending with the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking on February 8th.

www2.diolc.org/slavesnomore

Mercy versus Compassion

Compassion and mercy certainly go together even better than peanut butter and jelly, but we often hear the two words used interchangeably. Compassion is to literally suffer with another. It is not having the same feeling – that’s sympathy, but to put something of yourself in the situation and suffer with them. The Christian sense is to see Christ in them and to offer something of you. It is often referred as “offer it up.” Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, to be broken with the broken, to be vulnerable with the vulnerable.

Mercy by definition is the forgiveness of just debt. In our Christian sense, it is God’s love in action. Mercy is God doing the work of redeeming, ransoming, healing and forgiving. Pope Francis is calling us to “Be Merciful as the Father.” He is calling us to participate in the saving work of God!

Forgive us our debts/trespases as we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us.

Mercy is not just for those “on the fringes” but it is lived in a much more demanding fashion among those whom God has given us to love: our family, friends, co-workers, and yes, our enemies.

In this Year of Mercy, let us remember that mercy is the greatest attribute of love. Let us go and learn the true meaning of mercy and live it.