

## ***Introducing the Year of Mercy***

Father Jeff Tunnickliff, Pastor - Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, NY  
December 1, 2015

### **Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee**

(<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/preghiera.html>)

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 of you, Lord Jesus, 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.

<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 10.	“We must admit that the practice of mercy is waning in the wider culture”
<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 6.	“Saint Thomas Aquinas’ words show that God’s mercy, rather than a sign of weakness, is the mark of omnipotence.” Summa II-II q30 a.4.
<i>Mercy in the Fathers of the Church</i> , 10.	“In the most ancient Greek thinking, which is broadly reflected in the Homeric poems, mercy is considered one of the noblest virtues.” Yet Plato saw it as a “disease of the soul” (10-11) and as a “human weakness.”
<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 1.	<b>“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith.”</b>
<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 3.	“At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s actions in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.”
Matthew 5:7	“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”
<i>United States Catholic Catechism for Adults</i> , 488.	“The best way to obtain mercy is to be merciful.”
<i>Compendium</i> , 391.	“What does the acceptance of God’s mercy require from us? It requires that we admit our faults and repent of our sins.”
Matthew 18:22	“I say to you, not seven times, but seventy- seven times.” Cf. Matthew 18:21-35, Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
<i>Mercy in the Fathers of the Church</i> , 9.	“The invitation to be merciful “even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36) was often translated by the Fathers of the Church as an invitation to true perfection, evangelical perfection-that is, the common calling of all Christians to sainthood.”
<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 3.	“After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love.”
<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 4.	“We recall the poignant words of Saint John XXIII when, opening the Council, he indicated the path to follow: “Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than the taking up the arms of severity.... Show her herself a loving mother to all.”
<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 4.	Quoting from Pope Paul VI at the end of the council “Errors were condemned, indeed, because charity demanded this no less than did truth, but for individuals themselves there was only admonition, respect and love.”

<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 16.	“May the words of the Apostle accompany us: he who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness (cf. Rom 12:8).”
<i>Misericordiae Vultus</i> , 21.	“Mercy is not opposed to justice but rather expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe.”
<i>Saints in Mercy</i> , 13.	“In seeking to reconcile the justice of God with his mercy, Pope Benedict XVI’s message to prisoners of the Rebibbia prison in Rome in Rome on December 2011 should never be forgotten;... For us, “just” means “what is due to the other,” while “merciful” is what is given out of kindness. One seems to exclude the other. Yet for God it is not like this: justice and charity coincide in him; there is no just action that is not also an act of mercy and pardon, and at the same time there is no merciful action that is not perfectly just.”
<i>Lord, Have Mercy</i> , 88.	“The Old Testament speaks of God’s “anger” or His “wrath” 168 times.
Exodus 34:6	“a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”
<i>Mercy in the Fathers of the Church</i> , 14.	“Tertullian states the God revealed to Moses, the “merciful and charitable God, slow to anger and rich in love and loyalty,” is the same “Father of mercies and God of all comfort” (2 Cor 1:3) of the New Testament (see <i>Against Marcion</i> , 5.11).
Proverbs 24:16	“For the just man falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble to ruin.”
Matthew 9:13	“Go and learn the meaning of ‘I desire mercy not sacrifice’. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners”.
John 3:16-17	“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”
John 8:11	“Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”
Luke 5:8	When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.”
<i>Saints in Mercy</i> , 26.	“Henri Bremond, the great historian of Christian spirituality, justly explained, according to St. John Paul II, “It was not love of men that led Vincent to holiness, but rather holiness that made him truly and effectively charitable; it was not the poor who gave him to God, but God, on the contrary, who gave him to the poor” (Homily September 27, 1987).”

<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> , page 888.	Defines mercy as “ <i>The loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends (e.g., the mercy of God to us sinners).</i> ”
<i>United States Catholic Catechism for Adults</i> , 325.	“Our Gospel commitment to Christ’s Kingdom of love, justice, and mercy always includes advocating and supporting fairness for all.”
<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> , 1037.	“God predestines no one to go to hell.”

The day after this presentation was given, on December 2, 2015, there was a mass shooting in San Bernardino, CA. The following weekend Fr. Jeff spoke about the shooting and mercy in his homily. You can read his homily at:  
<http://blog.renewaloffaith.org/blog/?p=1731>

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

*Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

Hahn, Scott, *Lord, Have Mercy: The Healing Power of Confession*”. New York: Doubleday, 2003.  
 Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, *Mercy in the Fathers of the Church: Pastoral Resources for Living the Jubilee*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2015.

Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, *Mercy in the Fathers of the Church: Jubilee of Mercy 2015-2016*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2015.

Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, *The Saints in Mercy: Jubilee of Mercy 2015-2016*. Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2015.

Pope Francis, “*Misericordiae Vultus Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*”. Available online at the official Jubilee website – [www.im.va](http://www.im.va).

USCCB, *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006.