



Weekly Bulletin

9/21/16

Catholics all over the world are living mercy in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis calls us all to follow Jesus in his example of showing mercy within our lives. The following is a reflection to help us in our works during this important year. This can be used in your own personal path or with your child as they develop an understanding of the importance of showing mercy in their lives and in the lives of others.

Jesus is the “face” of the Father’s mercy

Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Francis writes is the “face” of the Father’s mercy—he reveals the mercy of God by his words, actions, and person. We follow Jesus’ example when we open ourselves to the Father’s mercy by looking “sincerely” into the eyes of our brothers and sisters, including those “who are denied their dignity.” How have you experienced the Father’s mercy in your own life? How might Jesus be calling you to look “sincerely” into the eyes of those who are denied their dignity?

Mercy is “the beating heart of the Gospel”

Pope Francis writes: “It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy.” Mercy, he says, is “the beating heart of the Gospel” (*Misericordiae Vultus*). To live mercy, we must rediscover both the spiritual works of mercy (counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead), and the corporal works of mercy (feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead). Which spiritual works of mercy might Christ be calling you to practice? Which corporal works of mercy?

Mercy “demands justice”

“True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer,” Pope Francis notes. “It asks us, the Church, us, the City of Rome, it asks the institutions — to ensure that no one ever again stand in need of a soup-kitchen, of makeshift-lodgings, of a service of legal assistance in order to have his legitimate right recognized to live and to work, to be fully a person” (Address to Jesuit Refugee Services, 9/10/13). In your own life, and in your faith community, how do you work for justice? Do you seek to address the root causes of problems that affect those who are vulnerable?



THE POPE OF MERCY

SINCE HIS ELECTION, Pope Francis has inspired millions, implemented unprecedented transparency into the workings of the Vatican, and challenged the world with his message of mercy, solidarity, and service. Here's a look at Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ, better known to the world as Pope Francis.

- Pope Francis has established a "Council of Cardinals" to provide him with guidance before settling on a well-discerned path forward—a singularly Jesuit feature.
- Jesuits are focused on service. As superior of a house of seminarians, he took on the laundry duty.

JESUIT



PRAYERFUL



- The Five-Finger Prayer, commonly attributed to Pope Francis, is a celebration of simplicity, family, and service.
- His favorite part of the day is Eucharistic adoration, in the evening.

CONTEMPORARY



- Pope Francis is known as @Pontifex to his Twitter followers.
- Pope Francis has more Twitter followers in Spanish (@Pontifex_es) than in English.
- Pope Francis tweets in nine different languages, including Latin.
- He is the most influential world leader in terms of retweets per tweet—on average his posts are retweeted 7,500 times in English and over 10,000 times in Spanish.
- Pope Francis does not have an official Facebook profile...yet

CONSCIOUS



- In his encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis asserts that we are called by the Bible to care for the environment, to "till and keep" the earth (Genesis 2:15).
- Most importantly, Pope Francis connects environmentalism with social justice by emphasizing how disproportionately the poor are affected by climate change.

COMPASSIONATE



- Pope Francis built showers for the homeless in St. Peter's Square.
- Pope Francis has broken with tradition by washing the feet of the elderly, disabled, and imprisoned.
- Aware that true power is service, Pope Francis welcomes those whom society shuns, even embracing a man covered in tumors.

FIRSTS + FAVORITES



Pope Francis is the first...

- Jesuit Pope
- Pope from South America
- Pope to choose the name Francis
- Non-European pope since 741 A.D.

Pope Francis's favorite...

- Sports team is the San Lorenzo Football Club
- Food is *bagna cauda* (a type of fondue)
- Dance is the tango
- Saint is Thérèse de Lisieux

CATHOLIC FAST FACTS

There are 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide. In the United States there are:

- 78.2 million Catholics
- 2 million children in Catholic schools
- 50,000 religious sisters
- 38,000 priests
- 17,000 Catholic parishes
- 195 arch/dioceses

Within the Catholic Church in the United States:

- Catholicism comprises 25% of the U.S. population.
- Hispanic Catholics now make up 41% of the U.S. church.
- 39% of American immigrants are Catholic.
- The average Catholic is getting older, with the median age of 49 (up from 45 in 2007).
- 16% of Millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) identify as Catholic.

PICTURE DAY IS TOMORROW!!!

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Our Lady Of Grace
Picture Day Date: Thursday, September 22, 2016

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tyoung@lifetouch.com



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Students may come out of uniform tomorrow. Please make sure all outfits follow the *Out-of-Uniform Days* policy found in the Student Handbook on page 38. This can be reviewed on our website in the Current Families tab.



Here is the link to the **September** lunch menu:

<https://olgcs.ascendsms.com/images/FileStorage/33S08A31A2016%201B00B21%20PMMenuSept%2017.pdf>



Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association

****Boys Basketball****

Registration Opens on September 4th and close on September 25th
(Blue Sombrero registration only)

Please see the OLG Athletic webpage for additional information regarding all sports programs offered at Our Lady of Grace.



Room Parent Sign Up

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48a8ab2fa13-room>

There are still a number of slots open in the lower grades and quite a few in the junior high (just to coordinate food for their parties, not to be there).

PTO Volunteer Opportunities

Please use the following link to find out about the many PTO volunteer opportunities to help out short term around the school: [OLG PTO volunteer opportunities](#)

Activity Flyers

Mount Notre Dame Start Up for Junior High

MND Start-Up is geared to the inquisitive 6th, 7th and 8th grade girl who is seeking opportunities to expand her learning. Sessions are taught by leading Mount Notre Dame faculty members, experts in their particular fields of study and in engaging students in applied learning. Each session requires a separate registration, which opens exactly one month prior to the event. Space is limited - first come, first serve.

<http://www.mndhs.org/admissions/mnd-start-up-junior-high-series>

**If you have a flyer for an available activity you would like in our Weekly Bulletin, please email it to boshaughnessy@olgcs.org by Friday.