

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Peace and all good!

We have once again reached that time of year when everyone is talking about New Year's resolutions. Folks spend a lot of time talking about what they plan to change in their lives at the stroke of midnight. Then, in a week or two (or maybe a day or two), they are disappointed because they have not lived up to what they thought they would accomplish.

I hope that as Secular Franciscans, we have long ago realized that we are called to *daily conversion* by Article 7 of our Rule of Life: "...let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls conversion. Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily." Franciscans know that each day we have another chance to improve, another chance to change our lives.

Pope Francis has declared this year as the Jubilee Year of Mercy. How fitting that our Holy Father who follows St. Francis so closely should choose mercy as the theme of this Holy Year. We all know that we *need* mercy, but how can we *show* mercy to others throughout this year?

There are many resources available online and in print to help us along the way. But, I would like to offer the most basic list that we learned as children. If we meditate on these works of mercy, we, personally and in collaboration with our brothers and sisters in fraternity, should be able to find many ways to live out the spirit of the Holy Year of Mercy. Please read each item below and prayerfully discern where the Spirit leads you as an individual or where He is leading your entire fraternity.

<b><u>Corporal Works Of Mercy</u></b>	<b><u>Spiritual Works Of Mercy</u></b>
Feed the Hungry	Counsel the Doubtful
Give Drink to the Thirsty	Instruct the Ignorant
Shelter the Homeless	Admonish the Sinner
Visit the Sick	Comfort the Sorrowful
Visit the Prisoners	Forgive Injuries
Bury the Dead	Bear Wrongs Patiently
Give Alms to the Poor	Pray for the Living and the Dead

During this year, your Regional Executive Council is going to take time each month to study **The Parables of Mercy** put out by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. We hope that you and your fraternities will make good use of the many resources available to gain inspiration for showing mercy to one another and to those in our communities and our world who are sorely in need of mercy. (See the list at the links below. Many of these links are also available on the Formation page of our website.)

As you pray over the Works of Mercy and delve into the resources given, we hope that you will share with us at the regional level what you and your fraternities are doing. We would like to establish a "Wall of Mercy" on our regional website and publish it later in the **Troubadour**. (Many parishes are also doing this.) Perhaps your fraternity already reaches out to the homeless; maybe you donate or have donated to a water well project; some fraternities are involved in prison



ministry. There is much we are already doing, but, as St. Francis said, "Let us begin, for up to now we have done so little." We can always do more! Let us know what you have done and what you plan to do to bring the Jubilee Year of Mercy to life!

Your Ministers will be hearing from me soon regarding the Annual Report to be submitted to the Region. I will mention again the idea of the Wall of Mercy. Also, the letters regarding Fair Share have been sent out. We ask everyone to help out in getting the reports written and the Fair Share collected.

There is one other business item. Please be aware that the **Troubadour** will now be a quarterly magazine instead of a monthly newsletter. There will still be two printed issues which will be mailed to you and two "online only" issues. We expect that the next issue in print will be out in March. Therefore, any items for that issue should be submitted to Anna by February 15th. As for announcements and dated material, please continue to send them to Anna by the 15th of the month prior to the event. She will send out a blast email announcing events of interest to the region and of interest to the various clusters.

May our Lord shower you and your families with His choicest blessings in the New Year,



Diane F. Menditto, OFS  
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

January 1, 2016

### **Resources for the Year of Mercy**

- Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy  
This is the document written by Pope Francis. It is not long and is easy to read.  
[http://m.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco\\_bolla\\_20150411\\_misericordiae-vultus.html](http://m.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html)
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops resources page:  
<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/index.cfm>
- Pontifical Council for Promotion of the New Evangelization  
Lots of books to use as resources  
<http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en/sussidi.html>
- The Hour of Mercy Website—published and maintained by two Secular Franciscans—John Clem, OFS and Tom Bello, OFS (our former National Minister)  
<http://mercyhour.org/>
- Mercy Hour Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/mercyhourofs/>
- Year of Mercy resources from the Archdiocese of Newark  
<http://rcan.org/yearofmercy>
- Our Lady of the Angels Region Formation webpage:  
<http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/formation.html>