



YEAR OF MERCY

(8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016)

FIVE FOCUS AREAS:

FORTY ACTION PLANS

(A summary of the Mercy Year Brochure 2016

Text by Fr. Baby Ellickal MI)

AREA ONE: PERSONAL CONVERSION

Only when I am aware I myself have been forgiven much and need mercy, will I be truly merciful. As Pope Francis told a group of prisoners, *“Standing before you is a man who has received much forgiveness”*.

1. **Ask pardon** from those you ill-treated or cheated or slandered. Follow with a good confession.
2. **Forgive** those who hurt you. Pray extra for them, and seek the grace to forgive. (If you are a priest, be available for hearing confessions.)
3. **Keep your life simple**, so that you will be more willing to share resources with the really needy, rather than surround yourself with comforts and luxuries.
4. **Avoid** habits that cause pain and division: **Gossip, bigotry, exclusion** of those who differ from you. Pope to religious on February 2: *“if, in this Year of Mercy, each one of you could avoid becoming a terrorist of gossip, it would be a success for the Church, a great success of holiness!”*
5. When people want to give you **gifts** (e.g., on birthdays, jubilees, etc.), ask for things for the poor or **for the mission**, rather than personal gifts for yourself.



Father Spadaro writes about his interview with Pope Francis: “I ask him point-blank: ‘Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?’ The pope stares at me in silence. I ask him if this is a question that I am allowed to ask.... He nods that it is, and he tells me: ‘I do not know what might be the most fitting description.... I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner.’”

AREA TWO: COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION

We need to be a reconciled community, overcoming divisions, injustice, jealousies and destructive agendas. We need to heal the increasing violence and intolerance with an onslaught of mercy.

1. **Heal and overcome divisions**, if any, in your family, fraternal relationship, religious community or province, based on language, caste, region, etc. Never write or encourage **anonymous letters** denigrating anyone.
2. Arrange at least one meaningful **penitential rite** and reconciliation service in every community.



3. **Treat employees with love and respect.** Check their working conditions, salary, health condition, etc. Condone the debts of your employees up to a certain amount. Or offer to pay off their outstanding debts.
4. **Mission, not money:** Make sure that our social and rehabilitation centers and institutions are not run like a profit-making business, but really doing it with a Gospel-based spirit of love and service in the model of St. Camillus
5. **Study Pope Francis' writings** on mercy—at least *Misericordiae Vultus*, *The Name of God is Mercy*, his *Talk to Major Superiors*, *Amoris Letitia* and Fr Antonio Spadaro's Interview with Pope Francis. Discuss them in community. Get copies for community members.

AREA THREE: CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

Each person, religious community and province can choose some and make plans. Areas: food, clothes, shelter, sickness, imprisonment and burial.

1. **Celebrate** events like birthdays, profession, ordination, jubilees, etc.—**by helping the poor** (e.g., scholarships, medical help, etc.), rather than getting personal gifts.
2. Make a **personal sacrifice** that costs, e.g., skipping a meal or not buying an unnecessary personal article, and use the money to help the poor. Keep community functions (Feasts, Jubilee, Social get together...) simple, to help the poor.
 3. **Become part of LIFE-BEATS- an Organ Donor.** Pledge your organs—at least after death: Tremendous need and shortage in India! One dead person's organs and tissues can give life or sight or health to eight others. Be an active member in **LIFE-BEATS**
 4. **Become part of LIFE-DROPS-Donate blood.** Encourage your community members and religious community to do it.
 5. **Sponsor nets.** Camillian Task Force along with Caritas India plans to provide 5 lakh mosquito nets in areas most affected by malaria. Cost per net: Rs 300.
 6. **Move from "comfort zones" to the "peripheries"** the Holy Father speaks about.
7. **Prison Ministry:** Ready to visit prisoners or find advocates for poor prisoners?
8. **Mid-day Meal:** For the poorest children/patients/sick in our social centers. How many will we help?
 9. **Day care for the aged:** Whose sons/daughters are at work during the day. Can you look after one or two elderly persons?
10. **Anti-human traffic network:** Human trafficking, especially of women and children, has become the second most profitable business worldwide. And a very cruel one. Willing to save and help victims?
11. **Anti-drug addiction:** The problem is very huge in some areas, e.g., Punjab. Ready to help victims with counselling and treatment?
12. Home-based **palliative care** for terminally ill patients: Many cannot afford hospitals or private hospices. Ready to visit and do services for such patients in their homes? Snehadaan community is planning for a palliative care center, would you like to contribute financially in setting it up?
13. **Medical camps:** How about our institutions? Are we ready and willing to organize it for others?
 14. **Care and support for the Dialysis:** Making a project to make some funds available for the poor people to continue their dialysis interventions
 15. **Care for AIDS patients and Infected/affected children,** or support for those who care for them.
 16. **Home for the Homeless:** CTF is planning to help the poor and homeless people. CTF-India along with the CADIS is planning to help 25 families. The cost is calculated from 3 lakhs to 4 lakhs.



Yes I donate
ORGAN DONATION



17. Share your **vehicles** with poorer neighbors who need to go to the hospital or on other urgent errands.

18. **Health Animation Team:** Take a stand for **justice and human rights**, when the occasion presents itself. Would you like to give more publicity for the Diploma on Pastoral Health Theology that we begin this year? Enter **government service** to bring about a more just and compassionate society. Recommend to get involved with the different agencies of the state Government

19. **Distribution of water bottle, cap and food to the migrants to the cities: Lay Camillian Family** (Hyderabad unit) is distributing water bottle, cap and food packets to the poor migrants to the cities. They have in fact distributed these materials to more two thousand people. Kindly keep in touch with them and extend your helping hand.

20. Use **mass media**, especially social media, to highlight justice issues and to help those who suffer the most. E.g., during the floods in Chennai, many did this.



AREA FOUR: SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

There are many ways of doing them. Areas: teaching, counselling, correcting, consoling, patience, forgiving and praying. Practical plans need to be made, e.g., counselling services in schools.



1. **Spiritual Animation Team:** To develop a new way of spiritual Camillian ministry to the sick through retreats, prayer sessions and other spiritual methods.
2. Offer **retreats** for teachers and senior students.
3. **Pray** with and for persons who are sick or troubled. Console and heal through the ministry of the Word and Sacraments
4. Make the Pope's teachings (e.g., on ecology, justice, care for the poor, putting people above profit, etc.) known to our students, lay collaborators, staff, etc.
5. **Fraternal, loving and direct correction** (not gossip) of people involved in bad habits, such as addictions, slander or cruelty.

AREA FIVE: BEING A COMPASSIONATE AND POOR CHURCH, FOR THE POOR:

Leaders need to be compassionate brothers. Otherwise, as the Pope says, we will train "little monsters" who will then be in charge of our people. It is a terrible counter witness when priests, religious or lay leaders are harsh or cruel, unforgiving or agents of division.

1. Form religious, seminarians and lay leaders into **loving healers**. "We must form their hearts. Otherwise we are creating little monsters. And these little monsters mold the People of God" (Pope Francis).
2. Implement the church's and the government's rules for the **protection of minors** in all our institutions. Avoid every form of abuse (physical, verbal, emotional or sexual).
3. Make sure that parents, we, religious set an **example** of compassion and a simple life close to the poor. Be humble healers, not haughty bosses. The younger ones will follow.
4. Laudato Si': Study it. Be ecologically responsible. Do we



care for the poor, for the earth, and for future generations? Is our life simple or wasteful? Avoid luxuries and keep our life simple. “The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume.” (Laudato Si).

5. Start each new day deciding to do at least **three acts of love** that day. At night check what loving and compassionate deeds you did that day. That is the only lasting thing you carry with you for eternity.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT THESE ACTION PLANS:

1. Make decisions in the area of personal reconciliation and conversion
2. Come together as a community to take decisions in areas 2, 3, 4 and 5.
3. Verify the implementation before the end of the Year of Mercy (Nov.20, 2016)

Models to follow:

“We like to listen to this Pope, because he speaks like Jesus, acts like Jesus, is like Jesus.” (*The Washington Post*)
This is what the Year of Mercy is about.

Want another model?

A dying cancer patient in much pain described the Camillian religious who used to visit her: “When Father enters a room, he lights it up!”

May our compassionate love light up many lives!

Let us boldly and generously fight the “globalization of indifference and violence” with an onslaught of mercy!

Start today!

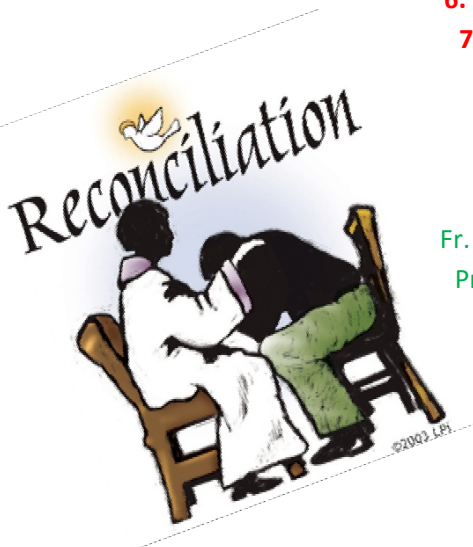
Do it now!

- **What will I DO this year in the areas of personal conversion and mercy?**

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....

- **What will WE DO (community, province, religious order, parish or diocese) in areas 2, 3, 4, and 5?**

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
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Provincial