



Consecrated to be Merciful

ST. CAMILLUS PROVINCE, INDIA



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY: CHARISM OF MERCY

The Extraordinary Jubilee year of Mercy began on December 8, 2015 on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, as declared by Pope Francis. It will end at the close of the liturgical year, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 20, 2016. In announcing the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis gave voice to the hope that we will all be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time.

We are set to mark the conclusion of Pope Francis' Jubilee Year of Mercy with Thanksgiving Eucharist celebration, presided over by Most Rev. Antony Kariyil CMI, the Bishop of Mandya, along with our Confreres, Camillian Sisters, our residents, staff and beloved children.

This year-long celebration has been a great grace for each one of us, for the whole Church in need of mercy. It has been a year in which we experienced a deeper, more personal experience of God's mercy in our own lives and also bore witness to God's mercy in our encounters with others.

We embraced the Holy Father's Year of Mercy and offered many opportunities for our confreres to be part of the Jubilee Year and to share what Pope Francis referred to as the 'balm of mercy'. We celebrated the Jubilee of Mercy with a variety of mercy projects. There were celebrations for the '24 Hours for the Lord' in which the faithful had opportunities to avail of the Sacrament of reconciliation anytime during this 24-hour period. Many of our communities offered an opportunity for people to share works of mercy, offered pilgrim walks at various stages during the year, created new prayer booklets for the faithful and offered lectures, seminar and workshops on the theme of Mercy. We also availed of the opportunities offered by the Year of Mercy to promote the Sacrament



of Reconciliation, to highlight the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in a new way and to enrich the season of Lent with resources on mercy.

As this special Holy Year of Mercy concludes, I thank our Holy Father Pope Francis for his gift of this Year of Mercy. I invite each one of you to carry the grace of this year with you, to continue to be missionaries of mercy and to offer the healing balm of Christ's mercy as you go about your daily lives. As Pope Francis said at the beginning of this year 'A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just'.

The good news is that, even though the Jubilee will officially conclude when

Pope Francis closes the Jubilee Door, God's everlasting mercy will endure. In some respects, every year we are still breathing is a year of mercy, during which we are called to celebrate, recognize our need for, receive and share this great gift. St. John Paul II and Pope Francis have both called our time a "kairos of mercy," and that "acceptable time" does not expire when the chronos hits November 21.



Led by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we have had a great opportunity to make contemplating and celebrating the Mercy of God a daily part of our lives through our observance of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We are called to become living portals, taking God's mercy more effectively, tenderly and joyfully out to those in need and drawing them into the heart of this inexhaustible mystery.

In thanksgiving, we raise our voices to God for the wonderful opportunity of this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. It is also our prayer that we will continue to be instruments of sharing God's mercy every day beyond the conclusion of the Year of Mercy.

Fr. Baby Ellickal MI
Provincial Superior



SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS ON MERCY



SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



Inauguration of the Jubilee year by Fr. Provincial & General Superior of Daughters of St. Camillus

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.

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 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.

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

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

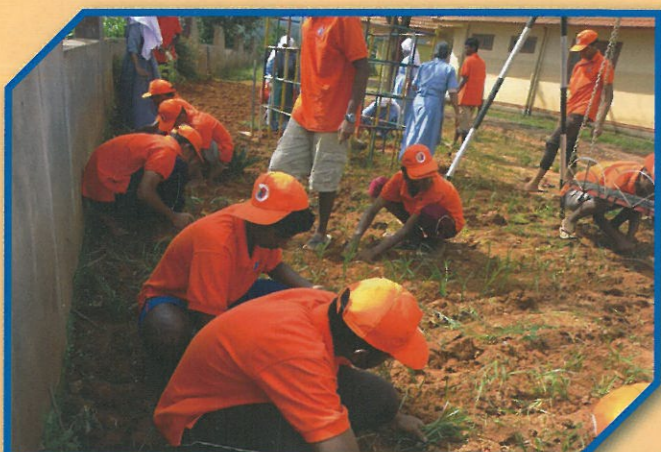
1. Celebrate events like birthdays, profession, ordination, jubilees, etc. - **by helping the poor** (e.g., scholarships, medical help, etc.), rather than getting personal gifts.
2. Make a **personal sacrifice** that costs, e.g., skipping a meal or not buying an unnecessary personal article, and use 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.



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.



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY



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.

WORKS OF MERCY DONE DURING THE YEAR OF MERCY BY THE PROVINCE

Sl. No.	CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL HELP	BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT
01	Medical help for Cancer patients	15 Persons	3,95,500
02	Medicines for the poor	50 persons	2,70,000
03	Educational Help	25 Students	3,01,192
04	Mercy Homes	25 Families	8,12,121
05	Land Purchase for the poor	2 Persons	3,00,000
06	Church Construction	One Church	1,50,000
07	Matrimonial Help	2 Girls	1,00,000
	Total		23,28,813

Launching of Upasana: Indian Institute of Pastoral Health Theology and the Inauguration of Diploma in Pastoral Health Theology



Camillian Family, Hyderabad Unit



Camillian Family, Aluva Unit

