



School of Evangelization

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

March 4 and 5, 2016 – 24 Hours for the Lord and the “Vigil to Dry Tears”



The 24 Hours for the Lord the “Vigil to Dry Tears” are set aside by Pope Francis on March 4 and 5, 2016. We are asked to offer opportunities at the parish level (also schools and academies) and at the diocesan level. Even during this very busy time of the year, everyone is asked to participate in this occasion of Mercy. Since the Diocese of Brooklyn participates in Reconciliation Monday during Holy Week, we may want to concentrate on the other aspects of this 24 Hours for the Lord and the “Vigil to Dry Tears” while not ignoring the need for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pope Francis tells us in his Bull of Indiction *Misericordiae Vultus*,

We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord’s words: *Merciful like the Father*. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36). It is a programme of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus’s command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice (cf. Lk 6:27). In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God’s mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle.”

The initiative of “24 Hours for the Lord,” to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.”

Local Level Suggestions: The following are some suggestions for pastors/administrators and catechetical leaders to use at the **local level**. You are urged to adapt whatever might already be taking place in your parish/school/academy on these days and incorporate the 24 Hours for the Lord and the “Vigil to Dry Tears”. To assist in planning, please use the resources found in the *Year of Mercy* folder on the DioNet (First Class) desktop.

Friday, March 4, 2016

- Penance Service with individual Confession times
- Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Evening Prayer

Saturday, March 5, 2016

- Morning Mass
- Extended Confession times
- Continued Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Special activity for families
- Closing Mass on Saturday evening (Sunday Vigil)
- Special bulletin inserts for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Diocesan Plan:

Reflecting on the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we are called to gather as a diocesan family during this special period of prayer and action. Pastors/administrators are urged to invite their parishioners to attend the events sponsored at the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint James in Brooklyn.

Here is the basic plan for the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint James:

- Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Evening Prayer
- Praise and Worship
- Saturday Mass with Bishop Octavio Cisneros
- Family Mercy Activity

Special Note: Bulletin announcements and flyers with details (schedule, suggestions for parking and transportation, etc.) will be made available in the Year of Mercy folder on the DioNet (First Class) desktop. **Please make that information available to your parishioners and promote the events at the Cathedral as widely as possible.**