



# VINCENIAN PARISH MISSIONS

"OUR VOCATION IS TO GO NOT INTO ONE PARISH, NOR INTO ONLY ONE DIOCESE, BUT THROUGHOUT THE EARTH. AND TO DO WHAT? TO INFLAME THE HEARTS OF MEN. IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ME TO LOVE GOD IF MY NEIGHBOR DOES NOT LOVE HIM AS WELL."

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL MAY 30, 1659

DECEMBER 2015

SEASON OF ADVENT EDITION



Fr. Richard Gielow C.M.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

What a great time of the year. We have just celebrated THANKSGIVING, a time to express our gratitude to God for his love shown in so many ways. We begin the Jubilee Year of Mercy on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This should be a wonderful time as we honor Pope Francis and his desire for all of us to focus on the boundless gift of God's mercy. Then of course comes Christmas, a time to celebrate an event that changed the world forever. Christ's birth marked the beginning of our lives as Christians.

Before we realize it, we will have entered 2016. I wonder what the new year will bring?

Of course we will celebrate the first anniversary of our new website. It has brought so much hope and comfort to so many people. We are so blessed to have such a powerful and effective tool to bring Vincent de Paul to life again. And at the end of 2016 we will embark on another Mission Cruise and arrive in Quebec to end our Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Shrine of St. Anne.

It is only ten years ago we had our first Mission Cruise to the Caribbean. So many people are friends today and mission supporters from these experiences. Twenty years ago in Rome, John Gabriel Perboyre was canonized a saint. Bob and I were privileged to be communion ministers at the Canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square. We all know the power of his prayer.

(ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 2)



For over 40 years the missioners from the Mission Center have been conducting "Parish Missions" throughout the United States and Canada. During that time they have conducted thousands of missions and have provided their parish communities with very unique and rewarding experiences which have made a tremendous impact on their lives and their communities.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR... (CONTINUED)

Thirty years ago, Pope John Paul II held the first world day of prayer for peace in Assisi. Our recent trip there was so special. Forty years ago our country celebrated its 200th birthday. And we so love our country.

Fifty years ago, Bob and I graduated from college and entered our final journey to the priesthood. We have been so fortunate to be doing the original work of Vincent de Paul in preaching parish missions.

So 2016 will be another year packed with God's gifts and graces. Each of you are some of those...

Thank you for all you do for us! With gratitude for your generosity and your love of the Vincentian Parish Mission Center, may God Bless you all.

## BEGINNING OF HOLY YEAR - JUBILEE OF MERCY

In April of this year, Pope Francis called for an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (Holy Year) will be a major event in the Catholic Church, held from the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015 to the Feast of Christ the King, November 20, 2016.

In calling for the Holy Year, Pope Francis stated, "Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought of how the Church may render more clear her mission to be a witness

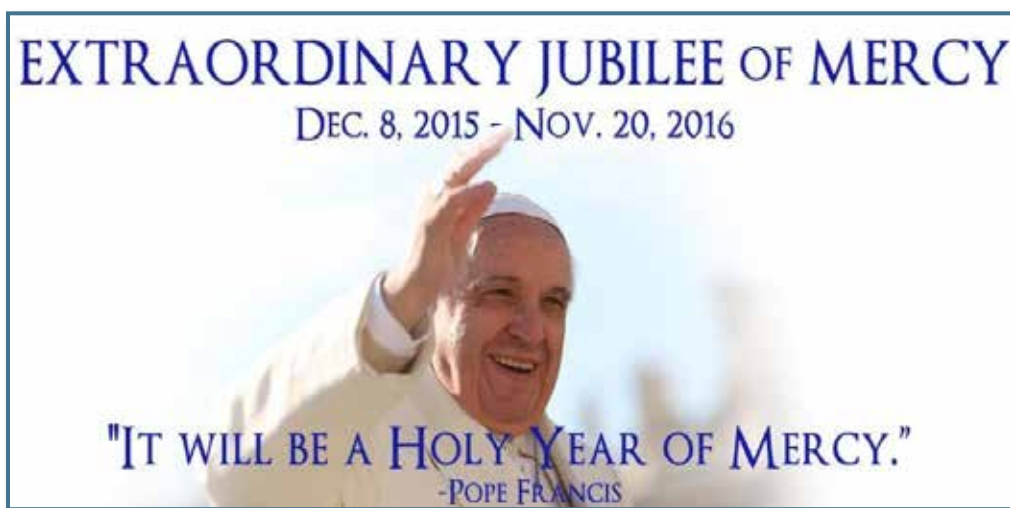
to mercy; and we have to make this journey. It is a journey which begins with spiritual conversion. Therefore, I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful' (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy!"

The Holy Year will begin on December 8<sup>th</sup> with Pope Francis opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. "On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope."



The Holy Father went on to say in his announcement, "I am confident that the whole Church, which is in such need of mercy for we are sinners, will 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. Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness."

For the past couple of years as Pope, the Holy Father has set an example for us about how we should live our lives as faithful people of God. Caring and loving those who are in need and forgotten. Doing acts of kindness, and being "MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER", which is the logo for this coming Holy Year.







## JUBILEE OF MERCY (CONTINUED)

With each Jubilee, the faithful are called to seek the Jubilee Indulgence. The Jubilee Indulgence, remits the temporal punishment due to already forgiven sin, making it one of the most important parts of the Church's Jubilee celebration and is achieved and granted upon repentance and the performance of certain religious acts.



Pope Francis states in his recent Jubilee instructional letter, "To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion... It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the Holy Eucharist

with a reflection on Mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me (Pope Francis) and for the intentions that I bear in my heart and for the good of the Church and of the entire world."



SAINT JOHN GABRIEL PERBOYRE, C.M.

The missionaries of the Vincentian Parish Mission Center follow in the footsteps of St. Vincent, who has made the main purpose of the Vincentian Family to go out to those most in need to educate and care for them. Therefore, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a major part of the Vincentian Parish Mission when we experience the love and mercy of God.

With the Jubilee of Mercy upon us, our work conducting Parish Missions throughout the United States and Canada will reinforce the call made by our Holy Father as we instruct and motivate the faithful to be "MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER".



### SEND US YOUR MIRACLE/PRAYER REQUEST:

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**VINCENTIAN MISSION PRAYER**

BY SAINT JOHN GABRIEL PERBOYRE, C.M.

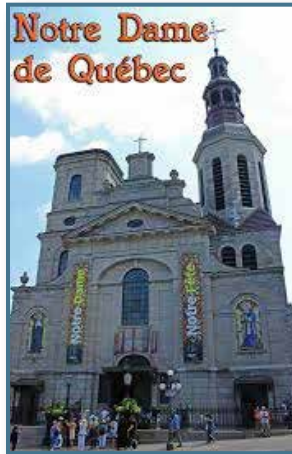
Divine Savior, transform me into Yourself.  
 May my hands be Your hands.  
 May my tongue be Your tongue.  
 Grant that every faculty of my body  
 may serve only to glorify You.  
 Above all, transform my soul  
 and all its powers,  
 that my memory, my will and  
 my affections, may be the memory,  
 the will and the affections of You.  
 I pray You to destroy in me,  
 all that is not of You.  
 Grant that I may live but in You,  
 and by You, and for You,  
 and that I may truly say with St. Paul,  
 "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me."



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**VPMC MISSION CRUISE**



**JUBILEE OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE**

For many years, Fr. Dick Gielow and Fr. Bob Gielow have been conducting Mission Cruises (Trips) to various places throughout the world which include daily mass and mission talks based on selected themes.

These wonderful trips have proven to be instructional, motivational and rewarding for those that participate.

In September of 2016, the Mission Trip will be a New England Cruise leaving from Boston, MA and ending in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. This Mission Cruise will include a couple of days in Quebec City, where the Mission Group will seek the Jubilee Indulgence by completing their Jubilee of Mercy pilgrimage to the Notre Dame Cathedral of Old Quebec, where we will pass through the Door of Mercy (Holy Door). The Notre Dame Cathedral in Quebec has a Holy Door, which was the first located outside of Europe.

The Holy Father stated, "The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage,



and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim traveling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us."

There are only a small number of spaces remaining for our Mission Cruise for 2016. If you wish to be a part of our Mission Group and to be part of our pilgrimage to the Holy Door, please call the **Vincentian Parish Mission Center at (816) 254-3000** for more information.

**CONTACT US**



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