



## DIocese of Edmundston

**BISHOP'S OFFICE**, 60, Bouchard Street, Edmundston NB E3V 3K1  
Telephone: 506-735-5578 E-Mail : [diocese@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:diocese@nbnet.nb.ca)  
Fax: 506-735-4271 Website : [www.diocese-edmundston.ca](http://www.diocese-edmundston.ca)

November 12, 2015

***To Priests, Religious Congregations  
and the Faithful of the Edmundston Diocesan Church***

# Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On March 13, 2015, on the occasion of the second anniversary of his election, Pope Francis announced the convening of a special Holy Year, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Vatican Council, and further deepen its implementation. This Holy year will be the occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, a central concept of the pontificate of Pope Francis. By the theme of Mercy, the Pope wishes for "a spiritual conversion of the church renewal."



### **A Holy Year Announced By Pope Francis**

This Holy Year will commence on the next Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy."

“ 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!

*Pope Francis, Homily of March 13, 2015, Rome at Saint Peter's*

'The Bull of Indiction *Misericordiae Vultus*, in which Pope Francis details the aims of the Holy Year has been placed on the Website of the Holy See:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/papa-francesco\\_bolla\\_20150411\\_misericordiae-vultus.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html).

The Holy Father reminds us that “just as God is merciful, we are called to be merciful to each other.” (§ 9) and that this Extraordinary Jubilee Year is dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. (§ 25).

Over the past three years, our Diocesan Pastoral Priority has been “ *Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus Christ* ” and this year's Theme is “*Like Jesus, I Live Compassion*”. At the launching of our Pastoral Year, last September, we became aware of how this year's theme reflects on the mercy of our Father.

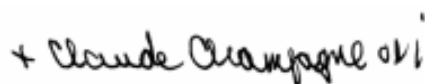
In communion with the Holy Father, we will celebrate the opening of this Holy Year with a Eucharistic Celebration in our cathedral, at 7:00 P.M., on the evening of December 8<sup>th</sup>, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, titular of the cathedral and principal Patron of the diocese.

This year will allow us

- to meet Jesus, the merciful face of the Father;
- to become ourselves bearers of mercy for our brothers and sisters;
- to become more welcoming and be radiant with mercy for our families, our communities and all those we meet.

Let us live this Jubilee intensely by being ever patient in offering compassion and comfort, in the heart of the Gospel.

With my fraternal sentiments,



† Claude Champagne, O.M.I.  
Bishop of Edmundston

Enclosures: Description of the Logo of the Jubilee of Mercy  
Parish Bulletin Insert