
LET IT COME, THE YEAR 2000 JUBILEE!(2)



In asking each of our 32 parishes to work at making their parishes holy places and places of fellowship, prayer, thanksgiving, petition, reconciliation, and sharing during the year 2000, I sincerely hope that each church and every baptised person will be once more a sign of the presence of the Living God among us.

A PLACE OF RECONCILIATION

If ever there is an event drawing one to reconciliation, it is a holy year. Reconciliation with God by confessing our sin, obtaining forgiveness, and doing penance. Reconciliation with one's brothers and sisters, neighbours and those we work with. Reconciliation with one's Church which must be a sign of salvation and compassion. This is perhaps one of the major elements of the year 2000: reconciliation with God and with one another, discovering once again the greatness and the grace of salvation, and forgiving and receiving forgiveness. How I wish that each week or at least once a month there would be time set aside for confessions in every church for those of us who seek God's forgiveness, or have been doing so for months or years.

A PLACE OF SHARING

Justice and generosity must be highlights of our churches and Christian communities. What marvellous contributions are made each week in your church by the annual collections reminding us of the universality of our Church! I congratulate you for what you give to your parish community and your diocesan Church. Faced with new services we have to establish at the diocesan level, especially for the training of future priests, pastoral agents, and catechists, our contributions will have to increase, and I am certain that you will respond in kind.

INITIATIVE AND CREATIVENESS

You know what will be required of your pastors, parish pastoral teams, parish pastoral councils, and different parish committees and organisations, for our parish churches to become more and more holy places, places of thanksgiving and fellowship, places of petition, sharing, and reconciliation. I count on each and everyone of you, young and old, for the Holy Year 2000 to be a profound religious experience. I hope that in each parish there will shortly be a list of possible activities for the Jubilee: opening of the Jubilee at Christmas Mass, prayer for families, welcoming the year 2000, prayer for Christian unity, jubilee of the Sisters, Day of the Sick, celebrations of reconciliation, parish missions, baptisms, confirmations, sacrament of the sick, Chrism Mass 2000, Fifth Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, Seniors' Day, celebrations of wedding anniversaries, of students, missionaries, clergy, etc.

PRAYER OF THE POPE FOR THE JUBILEE

EVERYTHING TO ALL THINGS

Blessed are you, Lord, Father in heaven, who, in your infinite mercy, gave us Jesus, your only Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the most pure Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, two thousand years ago. He became our companion along the way, he gave new meaning to our history which is a road walked together in pain and suffering, in faithfulness and in love, towards a new heaven and a new earth where You will be everything to all things, once death has been vanquished.

ATTENTIVE TO YOUR WORD

By your grace, O Father, may the Jubilee Year be a time of deep conversion and of a happy return to you; may it be a time of reconciliation among people and of recovered peace among nations, a time when spears are turned into ploughshares and where the clamour of arms is turned into songs of peace. Grant us, O Father, to live the Jubilee Year in docility to the voice of the Spirit, in fidelity in following Christ, and in constancy to listening to your Word and opening ourselves to the sources of grace.

NEW EVANGELISATION

Father, sustain with the strength of the Spirit the efforts of the Church for the new evangelisation, and guide us along the road, that we may proclaim Christ with our whole lives by directing our earthly pilgrimage towards the city of light! May the disciples of Jesus shine by their love for the poor and the oppressed; may they be in solidarity with the needy generous in works of mercy, and indulgent towards their brothers and sisters so as to be granted indulgence and forgiveness in return.

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