



YEAR OF MERCY

December 6, 2015 – November 20, 2016

PILGRIMAGE PATH AT ST. JOSEPH'S, SANTA ANA

By declaring an **Extraordinary Jubilee Year**, **Pope Francis** has invited us to pay attention to the **Mercy of God**. Making a pilgrimage is a particular opportunity to “pay attention.” As you journey through the stations of pilgrimage at St. Joseph’s, allow the words of Pope Francis at each station to lead you more deeply into an understanding of God’s merciful love and care for us.



FIRST STATION:

The Cross on the Grass

Thoughts of Pope Francis:

Infinite Love

“God is infinite love, boundless mercy, and that Love has conquered evil at its root through the death and resurrection of Christ. This is the Gospel, the Good News: God’s love has won! Christ died on the cross for our sins and rose again. With him we can fight evil and conquer every day. Do we believe this or not? ... But that “yes” has to become part of life! If I believe that Jesus has conquered evil and saved me, I must follow along the path of Jesus for my whole life.” – *Pope Francis, Address, Meeting with Young People, October 4, 2013*

Reflection: God’s love is infinite and His mercy is boundless.

Consider your personal battles and challenges – no matter what you are facing; God’s love is there to overcome it. Say yes to the love of God in each situation.

Prayer:

Jesus, as I look on this cross and the image of the Prodigal Son embraced by the Father, help me to recognize the deep love your words and deeds reveals. Help me to understand that the Father embraces me in this same way. So often I forget that you have redeemed me so that I may enter into the love of the Father. Help me to remember – and to live in that love.

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(Prayer continued)

Our Father....

Hail Mary....

Glory Be...

STATION TWO:

Inside the Church, Alcove on the Right

Thoughts of Pope Francis:

The Divine Mercy

Jesus, I Trust in You

Many times we trust a doctor: it is good, because the doctor is there to cure us; we trust in a person: brothers and sisters can help us. It is good to have this human trust among ourselves. But we forget

about trust in the Lord: this is the key to success in life. Trust in the Lord, let us trust in the Lord! "Lord, look at my life: I'm in the dark, I have this struggle, I have this sin ..."; everything we have: "Look at this: I trust in you!" And this is a risk we must take: to trust in him, and he never disappoints. — *Homily, January 19, 2014*



Reflection: When Jesus appeared to St. Faustina, he gave her a simple phrase to respond to Jesus' mercy. The phrase is: "Jesus, I trust in you." Think of all your current struggles and challenges, then, repeat: "Jesus, I trust in you! Jesus, I trust in you! Jesus, I trust in you!"

Prayer:

From the Divine Mercy Chaplet:

"Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will which is Love and Mercy itself."

Our Father....

Hail Mary....

Glory Be....

STATION THREE:

Crucifix

Thoughts of Pope Francis:

He Forgives Us Forever

When the Father beholds the wounds of Jesus he forgives us forever, not because we are good, but because Jesus paid for us. Beholding the wounds of Jesus, the Father becomes most merciful. This is the great work of Jesus today in heaven: showing the Father the price of forgiveness, his wounds. This is the beauty that

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urges us not to be afraid to ask forgiveness; the Father always pardons, because he sees the wounds of Jesus, he sees our sin, and he forgives it. – *Regina Caeli, June 1, 2014*

Reflection: Do you have a hard time forgiving yourself for past faults? God doesn't. He wants to forgive you, and forgive you forever. Be open to God's mercy to help you move on from the past. The beauty of mercy is that it truly makes us new.

Prayer:

Jesus, help me to recognize the forgiveness you have offered me – and help me to forgive myself and others. May your Holy Spirit bring healing to my wounds and help me to be open to your love and mercy.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...



STATION FOUR:

The Statue of St. Joseph

Thoughts of Pope Francis:

Guardianship of Jesus, Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear brothers and sisters, Joseph's mission is certainly unique and unrepeatable, because Jesus is absolutely unique. And yet, in his guardianship of Jesus, forming him to grow in age, wisdom, and grace, he is a model for every educator, especially every father.... I ask for you the grace to be ever closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close,

close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love. May you be for them as St. Joseph was: guardians of their growth in age, wisdom, and grace. May you guard them on their journey: be educators and walk with them. And by this closeness you will be true educators. – *General Audience, March 19, 2014*

Reflection: What can you learn from St. Joseph's example of mercy toward Mary and Jesus?
How can you live this out in the upcoming weeks?

Prayer: Lord, help me to imitate St. Joseph's humble attitude and mercy in the relationships in my family, friends and coworkers.

Our Father....

Hail Mary....

Glory Be....

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STATION FIVE:

Statue of Mary

Thoughts of Pope Francis:

Mercy and New Strength

When we are weary, downcast, beset with cares, let us look to Mary, let us feel her gaze, which speaks to our heart and says, "Courage, my child, I am here to help you!" Our Lady knows us well, she is a mother, she is familiar with our joys and difficulties, our hopes and disappointments. When we feel the burden of our failings and our sins, let us look to Mary, who speaks to our hearts, saying, "Arise, go to my Son, Jesus; in him you will find acceptance, mercy, and new strength for the journey." – *Message, October 12, 2013*

Reflection: Mary is our guide to accepting Jesus into our life in deeper and more profound ways. Take your current difficulties and disappointments and bring them to Mary to help you grow closer to Our Lord.

Prayer: O, Mother Mary, You were open and receptive to the grace of God in His unexpected visitation. You entrusted your entire being to His Love – help me to be open and receptive to the movement of the *Holy Spirit*.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

STATION SIX:

Back of the Church, near the Confessionals

Thoughts of Pope Francis:

When One Is in Line to Go to Confession

Do not be afraid of confession! When one is in line to go to confession, one feels all these things, even shame, but then when one finishes confession one leaves free, grand, beautiful, forgiven, candid, happy. This is the beauty of confession! – *General Audience, February 19, 2014*

Reflection: There is freedom in the Lord's mercy. We do not have to be afraid – we are infinitely loved by an infinitely loving God.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, please help me to overcome any fear and resistance to receiving the graces available to me in the Sacrament of Penance. Please guide me in prayer and reflection to prepare for confession and the reception of peace and forgiveness that you promise me in the Sacrament.

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A FINAL PRAYER:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you lead each of us on our pilgrimage of faith.

May this time of prayer and reflection bring us to a deeper understanding and experience of your love and mercy, and equip me to better carry your love and mercy to the world.

Amen.

