

Theme:  
Franciscan Focus  
on the Year of Mercy

- Mercy, the Face of God's Love
- Franciscan Focus of Mercy
- Mercy in Action



**Some Concluding Remarks ...**

To perform the corporal and spiritual works of mercy is “to go from Gospel to life” and is a way of “preaching the Gospel”, of evangelizing.

“The Church wants you to be men and women of witness. Saint Francis used to tell his brothers: “Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary, use words!” (cf. Franciscan sources, 43). There is no witness without a coherent lifestyle! Today there is no great need for masters, but for courageous witnesses. (Pope Francis, Homily, 29 June 2015)

## **Mercy and Creation**

It is not a coincidence that Pope Francis announced the Jubilee Year of Mercy just on the heels of his encyclical letter “Laudato Si”.

In his Encyclical on respect for Creation, Pope Francis writes “The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor ... It’s true that, the earth today, in fact in like that poor man assaulted by brigands and left half dead on the road. Many pass by him and go on, pretending not to see or simply leaving to others, who will come after them, to be concerned with the problem. If it is thus, the Pope, with his courageous criticism, has shown himself a “Good Samaritan” for our “Sister, Mother Earth”.

(Fr. Cantalamessa, OFM Cap, Preacher of the Papal Household)

In summary ...

God's mercy transforms our hearts and enables us to become merciful in turn.

We are called to be the face of God's love (mercy) by opening our hearts to those who are wounded and afflicted.

Like Francis, we are being « led among them ».

Our faith must find expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body, mind and spirit.

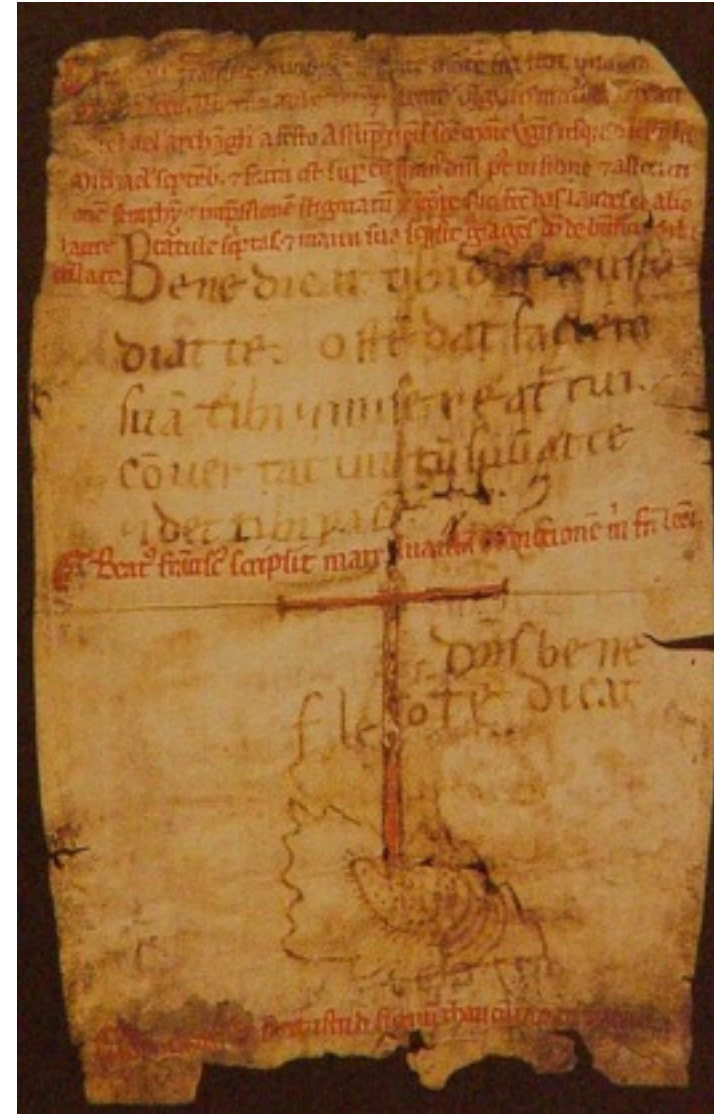
The clearest expression of God's merciful love  
"Forgiving others"

God chooses us despite our sinfulness - e.g. Peter betrayed Jesus but was chosen to be Pope; Matthew was a tax collector yet was called by Jesus.

Who are we to judge? We are to avoid self righteousness with its judgemental view of others

# The Blessing of St. Francis of Assisi to Brother Leo

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
May He show His face to you  
and have mercy.  
May He turn His countenance to you  
and give you peace.  
The Lord bless you!





# Laudato sii, O mi signore (4X)

1. Praise to you, Most High, all powerful.  
Yours, the glory, honour and blessing.  
Praise to you, Lord, through all that you have made;  
Praise and bless you, Lord god of all creation.

2. Brother Sun who gives the light of day,  
Sister Moon who lights the night away,  
Stars in heaven, precious and beautiful,  
Praise and bless you, Lord God of all creation.

3. Brother Wind and weather of all kinds,  
Sister Water, so useful and so fine,  
Full of power, yet humble and serene,  
Praise and bless you, Lord God of all creation.

## Laudato sii, O mi signore (4X)

4. Brother Fire, robust and beautiful,  
Mother Earth, her gifts so bountiful,  
She sustains us and gives us all we need,  
Praise and bless you, Lord God of all creation.

5. Praise to you for life and all it holds.  
May our living as like a song unfold.  
Let our voices sing out in jubilee,  
Praise and bless you, Lord God of all creation.

MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

