

Closing the Door of Mercy?

As the Year of Mercy approaches its end point, one of the frequently asked questions is 'What will happen when the Year of Mercy ends?' Sometimes the response is that we will move on to another theme and that will be our focus. So neat and tidy!

Our reality is that whilst the formal Year of Mercy comes to an end, we are invited every day for the rest of our lives to celebrate mercy - God's mercy to us, the mercy we receive from others, the mercy we share with others, the mercy we are challenged to show in our care of creation.



Our world cries out for mercy. So many, especially those on the margins, continue to live with insecurity, pain, anxiety, brokenness. Our creation groans for our mercy and we must never stop responding to Pope Francis' question: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (S160). What if mercy was packed away in a neat package and ticked off our to-do list because the Year of Mercy is coming to an end?

God's mercy is never-ending. Imagine if God pulled the pin on mercy towards us! We are called to be 'like God'. Our mercy and compassion towards others and creation must never cease. Whilst there is a ritual that contains the Closing of the Holy Doors on 20th November 2016, we must open our doors of mercy even more widely. Having had the opportunity to reflect on how gratuitously God has blessed us with mercy, even more are we challenged to share that mercy with others. Let's push the doors of mercy wide open; let's be welcoming of all who come into our lives. Let's take every opportunity to be women and men of mercy every day of our lives.

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