



IUBILAEUM MISERICORDIAE

ANNUS SANCTUS EXTRAORDINARIUS MMXV - MMXVI

Vatican City, 01 August 2016

To the Presidents of Episcopal Conferences

Prot. N. IM/1531/2016/P

Your Excellency,

The official calendar for the Jubilee of Mercy includes the ***Jubilee for Prisoners***, which will be held on **5-6 November, 2016**.

Recalling that “to visit prisoners” is one of the corporal works of mercy, Pope Francis, in his Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee of Mercy, wrote about the imprisoned with great compassion. In addition, the Holy Father wished that the Jubilee calendar also include a celebration that would highlight the challenging situations facing those incarcerated in order that they too could share in the experience of the Jubilee of Mercy.

The Government of the Republic of Italy is very supportive of this initiative, and the Department of Penitentiary Administration (*Dipartimento dell’Amministrazione Penitenziaria*) of the Ministry of Justice will organize the participation of a significant number of Italian prisoners, along with their families, in collaboration with all the institutions and associations who work in the prisons. It has come to our attention that other nations desire to participate in this initiative. Obviously, in all such cases, particular institutions are required to verify the regulations legislated by their respective countries.

As it is the desire of Pope Francis that the Extraordinary Holy Year be celebrated also within the particular Churches, I am sending to Your Excellency a preliminary draft of the scheduled program for Rome (*enclosure 1*) which may be

of assistance in the organization of local initiatives within your Conference. To this end, we would be grateful if you would share this invitation, as well as the enclosed program and the information regarding participation in Rome (*enclosure 2*) with all chaplains and volunteers within your territory engaged in the pastoral care of prisoners in order that they may be made aware of this initiative.

With gratitude for your kind collaboration thus far, as we continue to pray that all prisoners and all those who work in the prison system may experience, under the gaze of Mary, Mother of Mercy, the pardon and tenderness of God that knows no limits (cfr. *Misericordiae vultus*, 24).

As I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 
✠ Rino Fisichella

Enclosure 2



JUBILEE OF MERCY

JUBILEE FOR PRISONERS

Draft of the Schedule

Saturday, 5 November

From 15:00 to 17:00

In the Jubilee churches: S. Salvatore in Lauro, S. Maria in Vallicella (Chiesa Nuova), S. Giovanni Battista dei Fiorentini

Eucharistic Adoration
Sacrament of Reconciliation

From 16:00 to 18:00

Pilgrimage to the Holy Door

Sunday, 6 November

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 7:30 | <i>Saint Peter's Basilica opens</i> |
| 9:00 | <i>Testimonies</i> |
| 9:30 | <i>Rosary in preparation for the Holy Mass</i> |
| 10:00 | <i>Mass with Pope Francis in Saint Peter's Basilica</i> |
| 12:00 | <i>Angelus with Pope Francis (Saint Peter's Square)</i> |
| 15:00 – 17:00 | <i>Celebration of Mercy (Paul VI Hall)</i> |



JUBILEE OF MERCY

JUBILEE FOR PRISONERS

Rome – 5 and 6 November, 2016

General Information

Those invited to the *Jubilee for Prisoners* are, above all, prisoners and their relatives, employees of the penitentiary system, prison chaplains, and associations that offer internal or external assistance to prisons.

Victims of crimes will be present during the time the personal testimonies given before the celebration of Holy Mass.

Whoever would like to bring prisoners to this Jubilee should arrange for the necessary permits and permissions with the competent government authorities.

For government authorities, the coordinating office will be the Department for Matters of Justice (*Dipartimento per gli Affari di Giustizia*) within the Italian Ministry of Justice.

Once the necessary permits have been obtained, for assistance with logistics, you can contact the Department of Penitentiary Administration (*Dipartimento dell'Amministrazione Penitenziaria*) within the Italian Ministry of Justice.

Please remember that this event will certainly attract much media attention. Those who participate should be aware that privacy cannot be guaranteed, and that the images of the participants may appear on TV channels and in newspapers.

There is an exposition planned to show the products made in jails. A stand for these products will be set up near Castel Sant'Angelo, though not with the aim of raising money.

The musical "The Prodigal Son", a production involving 15 prisoners from the Musical Studio of the "Milano Opera" detention center, will be presented on November 9th in the Conciliazione Auditorium. There will possibly be addresses before the show by S.E. Mons. Fisichella, the Ministry of Justice, and others speaking about the significance of this Jubilee.