Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pope Francis has proclaimed a Holy Year, an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to begin on December 8th, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Mercy.

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. By his words, actions and his entire person he reveals the mercy of God.

Pope Francis describes the mercy of God as his loving concern for each of us. “He desires our well-being and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.” (MV 9)

There are a number of ways that our Catholic school communities might mark this jubilee. In our classrooms or general assemblies, we might reflect on the abundance of God’s goodness toward us, not only in the blessings of this earth but in showing us—each of us, personally—innate compassion and forgiveness. This year of jubilee is an opportune occasion to promote the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Church seasons of Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter speak clearly of God’s compassion for all of humanity in sending his Son Jesus among us, to share intimately in our life.

To speak of our human expressions of mercy, Catholic Christians have a tradition of expressing mercy, by means of what we call spiritual and temporal works of mercy. These are very practical ways in which we can exercise mercy and compassion to those in our immediate community. During the Jubilee of Mercy, some attention may be paid to understanding and promoting this age-old teaching.

The corporal works of mercy are to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to harbour the harbourless (think refugees), to visit the sick, to ransom the captive (think victims of human trafficking) and to bury the dead.

The spiritual works of mercy are to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to admonish sinners, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive offences willingly, to comfort the afflicted and to pray for the living and the dead.

During the first Angelus after his election, on March 17, 2013, Pope Francis stated: “Feeling mercy … is the best thing we can feel: it changes the world. A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just. We need to understand properly this mercy of God, this merciful Father who is so patient”. Less than two years later, he further reflected: “There is so much need of mercy today, and it is important that the lay faithful live it and bring it into different social environments. Go forth! We are living in the age of mercy, this is the age of mercy”. Then, in his 2015 Lenten Message, Pope Francis expressed: “How greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the mist of the sea of indifference!”

Let’s work together this year to make our schools islands of mercy in which we encounter and share with one another the tender mercy of our Lord.°

- Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

St. Joseph’s College Chapel Bulletin

Administered by the Basilians Fathers. The Roman Catholic Chaplaincy at the U of A.

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Pray for our Refugee Family

Please keep our refugee family in your prayers: parents, Iwan and Zamzam; and their young daughters, Karima and Ayat.

Liturgy Schedule

Weekend Mass
Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9:30 am & 7pm

Weekday Mass
(Located in Women’s Residence)
Mon & Wed 12:10 pm
Tues & Thurs 12:30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation
No confessions this week due to the Mid-Term Assembly of Priests

Development and Peace Fall Action
Create a Climate of Change

Let’s make Canada a climate leader! In December World leaders will be meeting in Paris at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) to negotiate a binding and universal agreement on the world’s climate. For this agreement to be effective at avoiding future climate-related disasters, the global temperature can’t rise more than 2 degrees C over the coming years. In order to achieve this, however, countries like Canada will need to transition to renewable energies, and move away from fossil fuels.

Sign Development and Peace’s Action Card, which will be available next weekend, asking the Prime Minister to sign on to an agreement at COP21 that sets the target to keep the rise in temperature below 2 degrees C and to be a leader in achieving that target. On the card you can also share with the Prime Minister your own personal action to help reduce climate change. The survival of our planet and its people is at stake!
Book Club Meeting

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov 10th at 7 pm in SJC 1-01 to discuss The Martian by Andy Weir. And, as always, if anybody doesn’t have time to read the whole book, no problem ... just read as much of it as you want. Contact Denise Young (deyoung@ualberta.ca) for more information. All are welcome!

QPR Training: Suicide Prevention

You will learn how to question a person about suicide, persuade the person to get help and refer the person to the appropriate resources. Learn the myths and facts about suicide, skills for identifying warning signs and clues about suicidal thought, the steps for preventing suicide: Question, Persuade, Refer, and the social services that exist on campus and in the Edmonton community for people struggling with thoughts of suicide.

November 2nd 5-7pm Newman Centre. For more information: theresa.robinson@ualberta.ca

The Voice from Assisi

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park is pleased to present an evening of music and song featuring the internationally acclaimed Friar Alessandro along with the Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School Choir. Join us at the church, 13 Brower Drive, on Thursday, November 19, for Mass at 6:15 p.m., followed by the concert at 7. Tickets are $15 in advance through the parish office, or $20 at the door. For more information, call 780-467-5470.

Questions of Life and Death: Wednesday, November 4

Are you caring for an aging parent or a disabled person? Do you suffer from a chronic illness or disability and worry about your own care as you age? Are you a health professional concerned about efforts to legalize assisted suicide or euthanasia? What is the Catholic understanding of life and death? Sooner or later, we all confront some of these issues. You are invited to join Archbishop Smith for a special seminar on Questions of Life and Death, on Wednesday, November 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 - 119 Street, Edmonton. Guest speakers are Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute. The session is free, and all are welcome. Please register online at http://caedm.ca/life or by phone to Suzanne Brohier at 780-469-1010.

Online Faith Formation

Registration is now open for the next cycle of classes in the Certificate in Catholic Studies (CCS), offered by the Benedict XVI Institute for New Evangelization through Newman Theological College. The following courses will begin on November 9: Jesus; On Good Soil; The New Testament; Church History I; Youth Ministry-Human Development and Growth; The Practice of Social Justice; The Practice of Pastoral Care; Liturgy; Catholic Philosophy; and Baptism. All are offered online, so you can study from the comfort of home and work around your personal schedule. Each course runs five weeks and costs just $70. Take an individual course for interest, or work toward one or all of the six specialized Certificates in Catholic Studies. This program is open to adults and youth of all backgrounds and education levels. Register online at www.newman.edu/CCS. For more information, contact Michelle Maxwell at 780-392-2455 or michelle.maxwell@newman.edu.

Fall Memorial Mass

Are you missing someone special? Our Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries invites you to join us for a Fall Memorial Mass with Father Jim Corrigan, on Saturday, November 7, at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome. OLP Cemetery is located at 4814 Meridian Street, Edmonton. For more information, call 780-454-4453 or visit http://www.ecc.caedm.ca.

Appointment of President and Academic Dean

This note is to advise you that Fr. Terry Kersch’s term as President and Dr. Brian Maraj’s term as Academic Dean of St. Joseph’s College will be concluding in June, 2016. Both Fr. Terry and Dr. Maraj have chosen to stand for renewal for their respective positions.

In accordance with section 5.2.6 of the SJC Policies and Procedures, an Advisory Review Committee for each position is in process of being established.

I have been asked by the Chair of the Board, the Archbishop, to Chair both of these Committees. I have also asked that Sara McKeon assist me with the administrative components of these processes.

Members of the St. Joe’s community are invited to provide input in confidence to each Committee. All input must either be signed and in writing or sent by e-mail to me (Kevin.Feehan@dentons.com) or to Sara McKeon (sara.mckeon@ualberta.ca) no later than Monday, November 16, 2015. Members of the community may ask the Chair to have their input provided to the committee anonymously.

As a guide, the position descriptions for the President and for the Academic Dean will be posted on the College website with a form that can be printed to provide your feedback. - Kevin Feehan, QC

Pure Witness Ministries

YEP (Youth Evangelization Program) is a one-day retreat for youth Grades 7 and up. It is a day full of games, skits, talks, music, food, fellowship, and a whole lot of fun. Pure Witness has been putting on YEPs in Saskatoon for four years and now we’re bringing them to Edmonton — the first will be on Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Annata Brockman School, 355 Hemingway Road, Edmonton. Lunch and supper are included and the cost for the day is just $25. For more information, or to register for the YEP, please contact Good Shepherd Parish at 780-487-7765 or email gdshsp@telus.net.

Family Dance: The YEP will be followed by a Family Dance, 7-10 p.m. at the school. Grab your dancing shoes and come on out and enjoy some awesome dancing and fellowship with other Catholic families. Tickets are $10/person and $20/family. For more information about Pure Witness, visit www.purewitness.com or contact Laura at laura.rice@purewitness.com.

Laudato Si’: Chapter 2: The Gospel of Creation

Pope Francis explains how our faith convictions encourage Christians to take up responsibility within creation as an integral part of their faith life. He names “the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone” (95). In the Bible, “the God who liberates and saves is the same God who created the universe, and these two divine ways of acting are intimately and inseparably connected” (73). “…Human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor, and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin” (66).

Dominion over the earth and its creatures does not mean destroying and damaging it. We are co-creators with God and are responsible to “till and keep” the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15)” (67). In this perspective, “every act of cruelty towards any creature is “contrary to human dignity” (92). But “a sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion, and concern for our fellow human beings” (91). We need to be aware of a universal communion: “called into being by the one Father. All of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect” (89).