



The Face of Mercy Lenten Study Group Promotional Resources:

Make Lent Your Time to Encounter Mercy with Family, Friends and
your Parish Family

Lent 2016, in the midst of the Jubilee of Mercy, provides a context for our spiritual practices and disciplines that may not have been thoroughly explored in previous years. Recently Pope Francis wrote, “Particularly during the Year of Mercy Catholics are called to recognize their own need for God's mercy, the greatness of God's love seen in the death and resurrection of Christ and the obligation to assist others by communicating God's love and mercy through words and deeds.

One opportunity for members of your parish family to consider this Lent is to be part of a *Face of Mercy (Misericordiae Vultus)* discussion group. To help you or your parish staff with tools for organizing this opportunity, the Jubilee of Mercy Steering Committee along with diocesan staff have created the following resources: a brochure, a flyer, an invitation for mailing, and a bulletin announcement.

- The brochure has been designed for you to print to give to parishioners who are already part of a small group within your parish that is looking for a special Lenten opportunity. It is also designed for you to organize groups this Lent especially for studying this extraordinary papal letter by Pope Francis. It provides reason why it is helpful to study *The Face of Mercy*, a synopsis of the topics presented and the structure of each session.
- The flyer has been designed for you to use as a poster on your bulletin board or to include in your parish bulletin. It is customizable for you and your setting. We used Publisher to create this resource. If you do not have this program, please let me know what you would like on this resource and we can create it for you and e-mail you a pdf file.
- The invitation is designed in case you would like to mail parishioners about an upcoming Lenten series around *The Face of Mercy*. When you print them, you get two invitations per piece of paper. Print on heavier stock paper, write the name of the person on the opposite side while including the parish return address. The invitation is customizable for you and your setting. We used Publisher to create this resource. If you do not have this program, please let me know what you would like on this resource and we can create it for you and e-mail you a pdf file.
- The bulletin announcement is a sample of what can be used to promote the Lenten Study in your parish.

Please let us know if you need any additional resources or if you need any suggestions on starting a Lenten study series around *The Face of Mercy* papal letter.

Catholic Relief Service (CRS) Rice Bowl and Building the Kingdom Campaign for the Holy Ghost Juniorate:

This year's Lenten campaign brings together two great efforts: Building the Kingdom campaign and the CRS Rice Bowl outreach. Bishop Pates with Teresa Dunbar from CRS and a variety of parish and school formation leaders suggested some changes to encourage families to contribute both efforts during Lent. We ask that you distribute the Rice Bowls and the Nigerian envelopes along with the letter from Bishop Pates to families at the beginning of Lent (one envelope per family rather than per child/teen). At any time during Lent, the family can return the envelope back to their formation class or in the Sunday collection at Mass. Parishes would then forward the money to the Finance Department using the same method for second collections.

On behalf of Bishop Pates and our CRS representative, Teresa Dunbar, thank you for helping make opportunities available to share our blessings with those around the world.

Ministry Training Day March 3 – Your Spiritual Backpack with Loyola Press author Julianne Stanz:

This is a day you will not want to miss!

The core quality that is essential for all of us and our volunteers no matter what aspect of formational ministry we specialize in is a rich and diverse spiritual life. Pope Francis on many occasions has stressed the role of witness. While in Uganda last November he urged catechists, "The message you bring will take root all the more firmly in people's hearts if you are not only a teacher but also a witness."

Julianne, through the imagery of items needed in a backpack for a journey, will provide each of us the opportunity to have an enhanced understanding of how the spiritual life of the parish leader provides an apprenticeship in faith for all we serve. She is also a lot of fun!

This ministry training day is ideal for those whose work is in religious education, sacramental prep, youth ministry, campus ministry, adult formation, Catholic schools, RCIA and retreat ministry. Registration information will be out shortly. Attached is a 1st attempt at a flyer so you can save the date. A more professional flyer will be created by Loyola Press and distributed through us.

Radix Senior Retreats:

Now is the time to encourage high school seniors to register for a spring Radix retreat to sink their roots deeper into Christ as they transition to the next chapter in life.

Two dates are available: March 4-6 at Creighton Retreat Center in Griswold and April 22-24 at St. Thomas More Center in Panora.

Visit www.dmdiocese.org/radix.cfm for more info and registration. Parishes interested in a “roadshow” to promote the retreat to their seniors can contact Tessa Roberts at (515) 237-5098 or troberts@dmdiocese.org.

Youth Applicants encouraged to be part of the Diocesan Youth Council:

Youth in grades 9-11 are still needed for the diocesan youth council that will plan the 2016 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference. Representatives are especially needed from the western parts of the diocese. Visit www.dmdiocese.org/youthcouncil.cfm and personally invite faith-filled teen leaders to apply. The first meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2016.

