

Transitions...

Advent blessings to you. The argument can be made that our maturity is demonstrated by how gracefully we move from one thing to the next. With this week we begin a new liturgical season and a new year. The Church Year always begins with Advent and concludes with Christ the King, however, this year that Feast also marked the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Since the practice was normalized in 1475, Jubilee years have been celebrated every 25 years. There have only been 26 of them! An Extraordinary Jubilee is “extraordinary” for a reason. It is *exceedingly* rare. This was the 3rd—**ever!** The next *Ordinary* Jubilee year will not be until 2025.

After this experience of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and as we commence the rest of our lives, as it were, it is very important that we not leave anything behind.

When God gives something, He gives it. The fruit of this past Jubilee is and always will be present to us. It is not as though we have no further access to Mercy. It was a gift to the world and it remains. The only thing that does not continue on is the opportunity of acquiring a plenary indulgence by going through one of the Holy Doors (or receiving Absolution from one of the many designated priests in the more rare situation of having committed a sin that is ordinarily reserved to be forgiven by a bishop or even the pope.)

On the other hand, it is now up to *us* to cooperate. We must have resolutions and practices that we have put into action. If we do not, it becomes increasingly difficult to do so. That is also the nature of a gift from God.

It is never too late to turn things around, but the longer that we delay, the more difficult it becomes. As we gaze across the pot at that proverbial frog, we think “Well, it's maybe a little warmer than I prefer, but it isn't so bad, really...”. Until it is.

What resolutions have you put into action? Nine weeks ago in this spot (Sept. 25th) I said:

Beginning today, there are eight weeks left to the Year of Mercy. Eight. There is not much time left. This Extraordinary Jubilee has been a time of blessing, healing, growth, and tremendous Grace. It is not too late to plug into that, but almost... Are you in the same place in your relationship with the Lord? Has *anything* changed? There is no treading water in relationships in this world or the next. We are either getting closer or further away. Binary choice. Yes or no. **What are you resolved to do to conclude this year?** If you do nothing, then not even God can help you. He *can't* if you *won't*.

So..., what will it be?