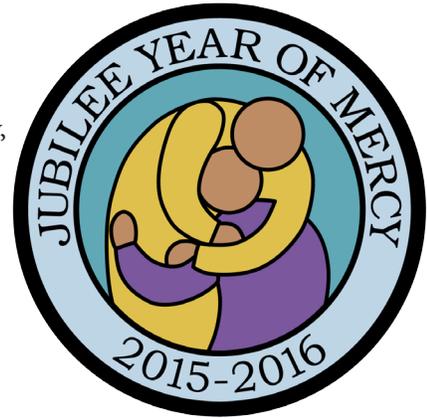


## Jubilee Year of Mercy Patch

The National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, a constitutive member of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, offers a special 2016 Year of Mercy patch to encourage youth in grades K-12 to explore some of the wonderful aspects of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church. All participants should complete the activities in numbers 1-4, and then choose from the optional activities, as listed below.



The practice of a jubilee year has ancient roots in the Jewish tradition, as found in the Old Testament (for example, see Leviticus 25). The jubilee year was called every fifty years and was:

- a time for forgiveness
- a reminder of God's providence and mercy
- a time for the entire community to come back into right relationship with one another and with God.

As the practice of the jubilee year was adopted into the Catholic Church, these themes of mercy, forgiveness, and solidarity continued.

### Required Activities

#### 1. Learn About the Year of Mercy

*All Grade Levels*—Find the answers to these questions and discuss them with your troop, your family, and/or your friends:

- How do you describe the Jubilee Year of Mercy?
- When did the Year of Mercy start? When will the Year of Mercy end?
- Who called this Year of Mercy?
- What are some events that are taking place during the Year of Mercy in Rome and in your own diocese?

*Grades 7-12*—Also answer:

- Why do we say the Year of Mercy is an “extraordinary” Jubilee Year?
- A special document announced the Year of Mercy. What is the Latin name, and what is the English name of this document?
- Read paragraph 20 of the document. What does it say about the relationship between “justice” and “mercy?”

#### 2. Learn About the Gospel of Mercy

The Sunday readings for Ordinary Time will be taken from the Gospel of Luke during the jubilee year. Luke is often referred to as “the evangelist of mercy” in part because it is in the Gospel of Luke that we find the famous parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the merciful father.

*All Grade Levels*—Read the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:8-32. Discuss with your troop, your family, and/or your friends:

- What does prodigal mean? In what ways was the younger son prodigal?
- Why do you think the father allowed his younger son to take his inheritance early?
- What can we learn from the younger son when he finally does return home?
- What do the actions of the father teach us about:
  - \* Forgiveness (in the case of the younger son who went away but returned)?
  - \* Justice (in the case of the older son who never left)?

How does the patch design for the Year of Mercy remind you of this story?

### 3. Learn About the Devotion to Divine Mercy

Learn about Saint Faustina and her special devotion to the Divine Mercy of Jesus. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet with your troop, your family, and/or your friends.

### 4. Learn About and Live the Works of Mercy

*The Corporal Works of Mercy*—The corporal works of mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They “are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs” (USCCB). They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life. Research the seven corporal works of mercy and come up with ideas on how to incorporate them into your life.

Specifically, select two corporal works of mercy (grades K-6) and three corporal works of mercy (grades 7-12) and use those selected to conduct a service project.

*The Spiritual Works of Mercy*—The spiritual works of mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those to whom he ministered, these spiritual works of mercy guide us to “help our neighbor in their spiritual needs” (USCCB). Research the seven spiritual works of mercy and come up with ideas on how to incorporate them into your life.

Specifically, select two spiritual works of mercy (grades K-6) and three spiritual works of mercy (grades 7-12) and use those selected to conduct a service project.

### Optional Activities

Grades K-6 complete one of these additional activities and grades 7-12 complete two.

1. **Learn about the “Holy Doors” that play a role in a Jubilee Year. Make a pilgrimage to the holy doors in your diocese or pray at the door of your own parish church.**
2. **Look up these verses about mercy from Scripture and choose a favorite:**
  - Luke 6:35-36 (Love Your Enemies)
  - Luke 15:4-7 (The Lost Sheep)
  - Luke 15:8-10 (The Lost Coin)
  - Matthew 18:21-22 (Infinite Forgiveness)
  - Matthew 25:37-40 (Works of Mercy)

Draw a picture that shows how your favorite verse is “mercy in action.”

3. **Research online some of the different Year of Mercy prayers that dioceses have prepared. Adopt one of these prayers or write your own. Pray this prayer at least once throughout the year for a special intention.**
4. **Research the Vatican’s Year of Mercy logo and explain the symbolism in the logo to your troop, family, and/or friends.**

### Helpful Resources

The following links may be useful in completing the requirements.

- <http://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/praythechaplet.php>.
- <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/Saint.aspx?id=1931>.
- <http://looktohimandberadiant.blogspot.com/2015/08/year-of-mercy-resources-all-ideas.html>

*Patch design courtesy of the Diocese of Lexington.*