

Mary is the Immaculate Conception and the Mother of Mercy!

Today begins **the Year of Mercy!**

Yes, **Pope Francis** has announced a very special year, **an Extraordinary Jubilee Year** devoted to contemplating and entrusting ourselves to **the Mercy of God.**

The **Holy Year of Mercy** begins today, December 8th and will conclude on Sunday, **November 20, 2016 ... the Feast of Christ the King.**

Today is the perfect day to begin **this Jubilee** because **today's feast** highlights a **tremendous expression of God's mercy ...**

that He would create **Mary** free from **the stain of Original Sin.**

In our **First Reading** from **Genesis** we hear of **the Original Sin** of **Adam and Eve.** **Both of them** had been created by God **without sin ...** but **sadly,** they listened to the **Devil** and disobeyed God who confronts them saying,

"You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!"

But even as God brings judgment on **the Serpent** for misleading **Adam and Eve,** we hear in his words **the first hint of a Redeemer,** who would mend **the wound of sin.**

God says to the Serpent, *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers, he will strike at your head , while you strike at his heel."*

In this we see **a reference** to **Mary**

(the woman) God would create in the fullness of time

whose offspring, **Jesus ...** would strike **the head of the devil.**

The **greatest sign of God's mercy** was **His sending of** **His only begotten Son,** **Jesus** into our world and offering Him up to **death** for **the atonement of our sins.**

That makes **Jesus ...** **Mercy Incarnate.**

And so ... if Jesus is **Mercy ...**

then that makes **His Mother, Mary ...** the **Mother of Mercy.**

So today is the perfect day to begin **this Jubilee Year of Mercy ...**

this day where we honor ... **the sinless beginning of the Mother of Mercy.**

You know **when we** were conceived, we took **our human nature** from **our parents** and **so we** received **the stain of Original Sin** handed down from **Adam & Eve.**

Well, when Jesus, the Eternal Word, took on **flesh,** **He** took **his flesh** from **Mary.**

And God wanted **His sinless Son,** to receive **His human nature** from ...

a sinless mother.

So, God arranged it so that ... from **the first moment that Mary was conceived in her mother's womb ... she was preserved from the stain of sin.**

We call this work of God ... the Immaculate Conception.

You see, **while all of us ... are delivered out of Original Sin by the merits of Jesus, Mary ... was preserved from Original Sin by the merits of Jesus.**

**So just as God created Adam and Eve without sin,
God created Mary without sin.**

The difference is that Adam and Eve said No to God and disobeyed Him.
Whereas, **Mary said Yes to God and never disobeyed Him.**

Realize **what a wonderful show of Mercy** this is ...
that God would create Mary without sin
in order to have a sinless Mother for his sinless Son
so that Jesus could come into our world
and accomplish His great work of redemption
so that we would have access to forgiveness for sin
and have a way to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Angel Gabriel's greeting of, "*Hail, Mary, full of grace.*"
affirms that Mary's soul was not stained in any way by sin.

As the only creature since Adam and Eve to be born without Original Sin,
Mary is esteemed above all others.

She was fashioned free of sin and full of grace ... to be the Mother of the Savior.

All we can do is marvel at this **great work.**

We didn't do this ... Mary didn't do this. ... it was God who did this.
It was **all part of His Merciful plan for our redemption.**

And it was also God's plan that **Mary's sinlessness would be
the model that would draw all of us sinners to her Son.**

Let's praise and thank God, for **His wonderful plan of Mercy.**

And let's call upon Mary, conceived without sin, regularly and often ...
to be our helper and guide.