Dominica XV post Pentecosten, a.D. MMXV

“Make clean and fortify Thy Church, O LORD, by Thy continued MERCY.” – *Oratio*

Year of Mercy (8 December 2015 – 20 November 2016)

1. Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy *Misericordiæ Vultus* (11 April 2015)
   1. Lent 2016: **particular priests** selected to be *Missionaries of Mercy.*These will be priests “to whom I will grant the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.”
   2. Examples
      1. Direct violation of the seal of the confessional
      2. Desecration of the Blessed Sacrament
2. Last Tuesday, the Holy Father published a letter he had written to the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization:
   1. “I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to **all priests** for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured itand who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it” (Francis, letter, 1 September 2015).
      1. Latin Church (1983 *CIC*)
      2. Eastern Churches (1990 *CCEO*)
         1. 23 Eastern Churches *sui iuris* governed by the Eastern Code.
         2. Canon 728 §2: “It is reserved to the eparchial bishop to absolve from the sin of procuring a completed abortion.”
3. “I establish that those who during the Holy Year of Mercy approach […] **priests of the [Society] of St Pius X** to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation shall validly and licitly receive the absolution of their sins” (Francis, letter, 1 September 2015).
   1. How is this possible?
      1. Juridically: Consider a laicized priest—he also absolves validly and licitly in certain circumstances (namely, in the danger of death).
      2. More profoundly: Christ Jesus rose from the DEAD, and is also able to raise us up from the death of our sins, and even from the grave itself.
         1. St. Augustine: Christ raised three people from the dead in the Gospels, but countless thousands [and even billions] in the font of Baptism and in the Confessional.
         2. *Salus animarum suprema lex.*