



Pope Francis

heralds a more merciful church

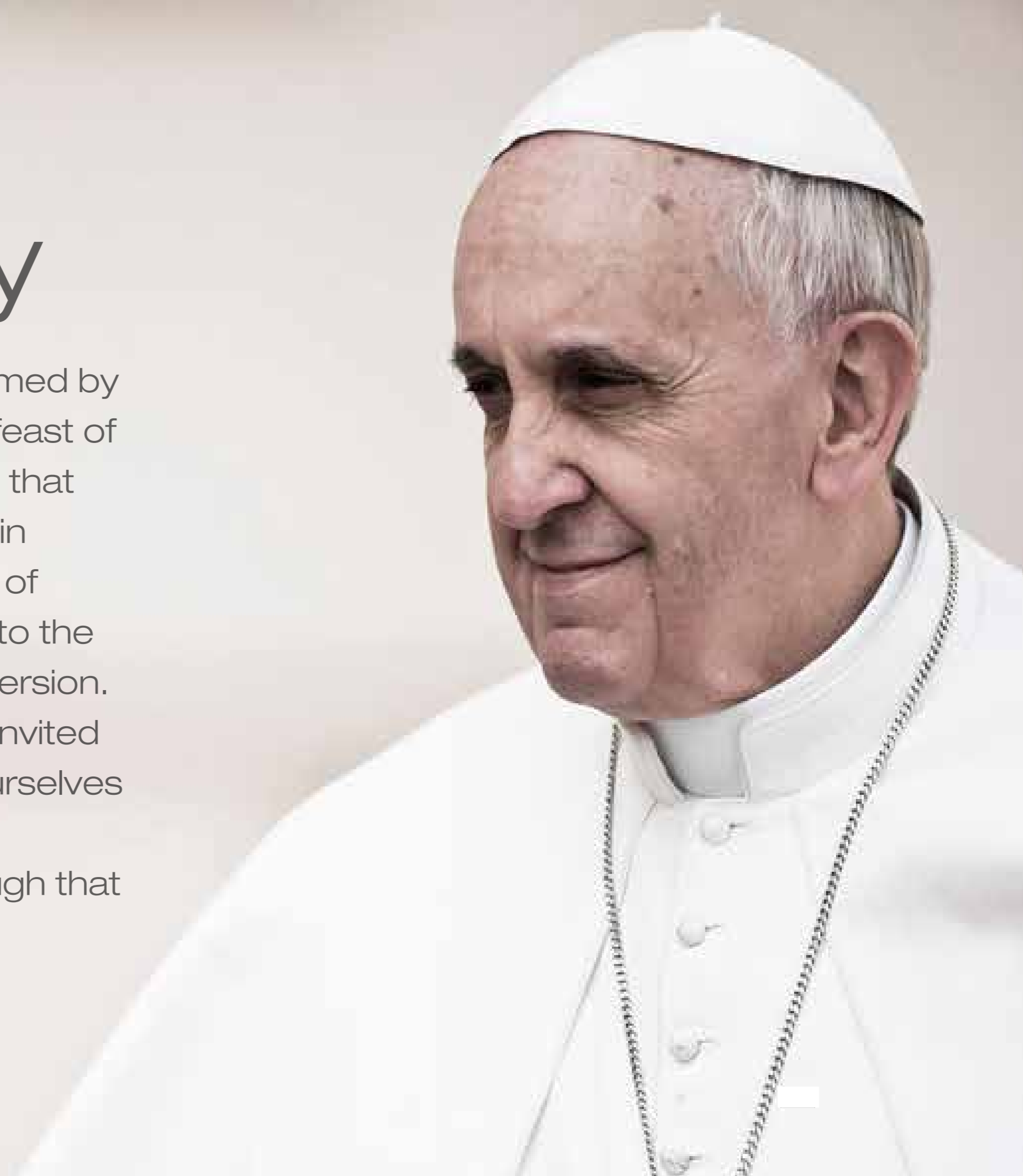
“The church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the gospel” EG114



Year of Mercy

The “Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy” proclaimed by Pope Francis begins on 8th December, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. On that day, the Holy Father will open the Holy Door in St Peter’s Basilica in Rome. The experience of “mercy” is central to Christianity, it opens us to the gaze of Jesus, which is the first step of conversion. A door is both an entry and an exit. We are invited to pass through it as a symbol of opening ourselves to the fullness of God’s love, and a desire to experience his mercy. As we pass out through that door to express our desire to convey that mercy to others.

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Pope Francis

echoes the words of St John Paul II

The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy.
Dives in Misericordia 13.

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Pope Francis is the “Mercy Pope

John L Allen JR

describes the Pope’s primary desire
for the Church is to practice the virtue of mercy
describing him “The Mercy Pope”
in his book “The Francis Miracle”