



## THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY / CEW: OPENING DOORS OF MERCY

The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization is organizing events for the Holy Year of Mercy. Efforts also will be made to offer concrete signs of God's love and mercy by offering tangible assistance to those in need and bishops and priests around the world are asked to conduct "similar symbolic gestures of communion with Pope Francis" in their dioceses by reaching out to those on the margins.

*By celebrating the CEW theme of "Opening Doors of Mercy", how might your board of education organize three activities in connection with these special events of the Jubilee Year of Mercy?*

### **December/January:**

*Opening of the Jubilee Year (December 8) and opening of the Holy Doors in Rome and world-wide*

- Celebrate the start of Holy Year at the local Cathedral and with school masses
- Celebrate "Opening Doors" and Jubilee Year at the December Inaugural Board Meeting and Mass
- Establish Holy Doors in all schools in the board
- Each school and parish shall create a "Door of Mercy"
- Secondary schools will build their own door and we will support travels from school to school with these doors
- Chapels in secondary schools will have a Holy Door
- The Christmas mass will focus on theme of Mercy and raising funds for the poor/needly
- Gather Faith Ambassadors together in one's board to celebrate the start of Holy Year
- Create system-level masses where all schools celebrate Holy Year together
- Hold a mass at the board office with representatives from all schools
- Organize a trustee retreat centered on the Holy Year of Mercy
- Create prayer services/resources for all schools to celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year
- Speak with our local Bishop to identify the location of Holy Doors in the Diocese
- Include the Holy Year celebration in the school board's pastoral plan
- Seek to discuss local collaboration between school board and local clergy at any upcoming clergy zone meetings to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy together
- Have social justice clubs do acts of mercy out in the community
- Schools will participate in any Diocesan or Archdiocese-wide mass focused on the Opening the Holy Door
- Each school has a portion of the door involved and include all schools to create one very large

	<p>door of Mercy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide board media/messaging to the public to announce the issues and background about the Year of Mercy</li> </ul>
<p><b>January:</b>          -World Day of Peace (January 1)          -Jubilee for Religious Pilgrimage (January 19-21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support school pilgrimages to locally designated Holy sites in your region</li> <li>▪ Create pilgrimages of the “Way of the Cross” or a Celtic cross – or any such Holy symbol you wish to use in pilgrimage in one’s board of education</li> <li>▪ Organize a retreat for trustees – and include educators too</li> <li>▪ Create local pilgrimages</li> <li>▪ Use social media to focus on the Holy Year sub-themes for each month</li> <li>▪ Invite parish priests to hold mass at the school to celebrate important events during the Holy Year of Mercy</li> <li>▪ Local schools will discuss and develop a concept of “Mercy” to decide their school actions of “Mercy”</li> </ul>
<p><b>February:</b>          -Jubilee for Consecrated Life (February 2)          -Missionaries of Mercy (Ash Wednesday, February 10)          -Jubilee for the Roman Curia (February 22)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider creating students as “Missionaries of Mercy” to promote service/kindness to their peers</li> <li>▪ Celebrate “Consecrated Life” in our schools and board</li> <li>▪ Include Holy Year issues in Ash Wednesday services</li> <li>▪ Organize Valentine celebrations in your board as a sign of love, joy and forgiveness</li> <li>▪ Visit covenants/seminaries to acknowledge those in consecrated life</li> <li>▪ Use Lent as a time focused on forgiveness/confessions</li> </ul>
<p><b>March:</b>          -"24 Hours for the Lord" penitential liturgy (March 4)          -Diocesan Day for the Youth of Rome (Palm Sunday)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Celebrate with 24 hour fast in local schools</li> <li>▪ Focus on an examination of conscience activities</li> <li>▪ Create a system faith day – where its theme is Missionaries of Mercy</li> <li>▪ Bring everyone together as a board-wide mass</li> <li>▪ Work with the board student senate to do social justice work at this time</li> </ul>
<p><b>April:</b>          -Jubilee for Divine Mercy (April 3)          -Jubilee for teens aged 13 to 16 to profess the faith and construct a culture of mercy ( Easter, April 24)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus an event on faith that addresses ages 13-16 year old (transition from elementary to high school)</li> <li>▪ Focus on mental health and the Year of Mercy</li> <li>▪ Organize high school students to produce a skit/drama on the theme of mercy</li> <li>▪ Focus on 13-16 year olds to promote Christian service</li> <li>▪ Organize Quebec trips – to visit and focus on its Holy Door –located in Quebec City’s Cathedral</li> <li>▪ Organize a board-wide visual arts display on “Mercy”</li> <li>▪ Organize board level youth activities focused on “mercy”</li> </ul>

<p><b>May:</b> Jubilee for Deacons (May 27-29)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ During Catholic Education Week, gather these school doors in a visible central board location</li> <li>▪ Organize faith teams to infuse the Year of Mercy into the curriculum</li> <li>▪ Organize school retreats around the theme of The Year of Mercy</li> <li>▪ Establish a regional Catholic school boards event – where people from several school boards (e.g. student leaders and school principals) gather to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy</li> <li>▪ Organize a board-wide walk with Jesus</li> <li>▪ Catholic Education Week – promote “buy a door/prepare a door” to celebrate the Holy Year</li> <li>▪ Organize outdoor mass at schools and provide plants as a gift to all school neighbours</li> </ul>
<p><b>June:</b> -Jubilee for Priests (June 3) -Jubilee for those who are ill and for persons with disabilities (June 12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invite/acknowledge priests in our schools</li> <li>▪ Prayer services for those who are ill/disabled</li> </ul>
<p><b>July:</b> -Jubilee for Youth, World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland (July 26-31)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote at schools to help subsidize a youth to attend the youth event in Poland</li> <li>▪ Sponsor student trustees to attend World Youth Day – and visit schools to have them share this global experience</li> <li>▪ Organize parishes to fundraise for World Youth Day</li> <li>▪ Sponsor a student for World Youth Day</li> </ul>
<p><b>August:</b> No Events</p>	
<p><b>September:</b> -Jubilee for Workers and Volunteers of Mercy (September 4) -Jubilee for Catechists (September 25)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Honour board staff and local organizations involved in service work</li> <li>▪ Focus on Labour Day, service work and Holy Year celebration at the start of the school year</li> <li>▪ Celebrate our volunteers/recognize all volunteers</li> <li>▪ Organize a volunteer event as a group of trustees (e.g. trustees work at a local soup kitchen)</li> <li>▪ Celebrate groups who work to support those who do good work</li> <li>▪ Organize a Diocesan mass at a local Catholic university</li> <li>▪ Commission new Catholic teachers focused on the theme of the Holy Year of Mercy</li> <li>▪ Organize social justice activities this month to highlight those groups in need of mercy, compassion and assistance</li> <li>▪ Recognize student volunteers</li> <li>▪ Secondary students will be volunteers of mercy for elementary students during a board-wide Faith Day</li> </ul>
<p><b>October:</b> -Marian Jubilee (October 8-9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct Marian celebrations this month</li> <li>▪ Invite the local Bishop to be part of the board’s Marian Jubilee</li> <li>▪ Organize a System Faith Day on the Year of Mercy</li> <li>▪ During a board Faith Day – have all the school doors be brought together to one location</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organize a “Walk for Christ/Tie me to Mary” walk-a-thon</li> <li>▪ Organize school pilgrimages as the Holy Year comes to an end</li> </ul>
<p><b>November:</b></p> <p>-Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in memory of the faithful departed (November 1, Feast of All Saints)</p> <p>-Jubilee for Prisoners (November 6 )</p> <p>-<i>Closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and those around the world. Conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy (November 20)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hold a Spiritual/Faith PA Day focusing on the Holy Year of Mercy</li> </ul>

For more information, please see the official Vatican website about the Holy Year of Mercy: <http://www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va/content/gdm/en/calendario.html>



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association