

MICHAEL C. BARBER, S.J.
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Given the importance of Pope Francis' upcoming visit to the USA, and the Holy Father's desire that the whole Church celebrates an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I am appointing a Diocesan Committee to guide us in our planning. The committee will be composed of

Dr. Margaret Turek, Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization, chair
Fr. Ron Schmit, representing the Presbyteral Council
Mr. Steve Mullin, from Catholic Charities
Fr. Jay Matthews, rector of the Cathedral of Christ the Light
Ms. Margo Tammen, representing the Department of Catholic Schools
Fr. Alexander Castillo, from the Office of Worship

The Jubilee of Mercy will start on December 8th, 2015 and will conclude on November 20th, 2016. This is truly a great opportunity to embrace the call to the New Evangelization, as the Holy Father has been encouraging us to do, especially through prayer, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I hope and pray that this invitation from the Lord through our beloved Pope Francis will help us all to become *merciful like the Father*.

Michael C. Barber, SJ
Bishop of Oakland

For the greater glory of God