



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kelly Hughes, 312-280-8126
kelly@dechanthughes.com

Loyola Press Releases New Book by Pope Francis: *The Church of Mercy*

Chicago, IL—Loyola Press released *The Church of Mercy: A Vision for the Church* by Pope Francis on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014, the first collection of writings from his first year as pope. Arranged thematically to provide a coherent narrative of his papacy thus far, it expresses the Pope's clear and urgent desire for "a church that is poor, and for the poor."

The Church of Mercy shows why millions of Catholics and non-Catholics worldwide are drawn to this Pope. His humility, openness, invitational tone, deep concern for the world's suffering people, and the infectious joy of his faith are evident on every page.

Pope Francis describes a welcoming Church that "steps outside herself," to meet people where they are. "She calls everyone to allow themselves to be enfolded by the mercy, the tenderness, and the forgiveness of the Father."

He encourages "a culture of encounter and friendship" and returns often to the theme of solidarity. "The word solidarity frightens the developed world. People try to avoid saying it, solidarity to them is almost a bad word. But it is our word! Serving means recognizing and accepting requests for justice and hope, and seeking roads together."

Pope Francis addresses the constant need to struggle against the idols of power, money, and for clergy, careerism. Calling us to resist the dehumanizing force of a culture where "money commands all," he reminds us that for God, "we are not numbers, we are important; indeed we are the most important thing to him."

"*The Church of Mercy* is much needed because its message of compassion and hope speak to us with a prophetic urgency," says Paul Campbell, S.J., publisher at Loyola Press.

The Pope's homilies, speeches, and essays were organized by Giuliano Vigini, professor at The Catholic University of Milan, who has edited books by Pope Paul VI, Pope Benedict XVI, and Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini. "The keyword of (Pope Francis's) program, which signposts the way, is sealed in the title: *mercy*," writes Professor Vigini in the preface.

Loyola Press is a Jesuit ministry serving the Catholic community since its founding in 1912. They are a nonprofit apostolate of the Chicago-Detroit Province of the Society of Jesus.

#

The Church of Mercy by Pope Francis
Loyola Press

Hardcover: ISBN 978-0-8294-4168-0 \$22.95 Paperback: ISBN 978-0-8204-4170-3 \$16.95

Available on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014

PopeFrancis.LoyolaPress.com

A Selection of Excerpts from *The Church of Mercy* by Pope Francis
Available from Loyola Press on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014

Revolutionary Grace: “In this day and age, unless Christians are revolutionaries, they are not Christians. They must be revolutionaries through grace!”

The Church of the Poor: “Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.”

The Odor of the Sheep: “Be pastors with the odor of the sheep, present in your people’s midst like Jesus, the Good Shepherd.”

The School of Charity: “Rampant capitalism has taught the logic of profit at all costs, of giving to get, of exploitation without looking at the person... and we see the results in the crisis we are experiencing! [The Church] is a place that teaches charity: it is a ‘school’ of charity, which instructs me to go and encounter every person, not for profit, but for love.”

Refugees: “[The condition of displaced people] cannot leave us indifferent. Moreover, as Church, we should remember that in tending the wounds of refugees, evacuees, and the victims of trafficking, we are putting into practice the commandment of love that Jesus bequeathed to us.”

Violence: “We have perfected our weapons, our conscience has fallen asleep and we have sharpened our ideas to justify ourselves.”

Throwaway People: “Someone who dies is not news, but lowering income by ten points is a tragedy! In this way people are thrown aside as if they were trash.”

Freedom & Goodness: “Being free always to choose goodness is demanding, but it will make you into people with backbone who can face life, people with courage and patience.”

Peacemaking: “Peace requires a persistent, patient, strong, intelligent dialogue by which nothing is lost.”

Mary: “Whenever we look to Mary we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness.”

For more information about *The Church of Mercy*, please contact
Kelly Hughes, 312-280-8126 or kelly@dechanthughes.com.

PopeFrancis.LoyolaPress.com