Church condemns sin, shows mercy to sinner

“The Church condemns sin because it has to relay the truth: ‘this is a sin’. But at the same time, it embraces the sinner who recognizes himself as such, it welcomes him, it speaks to him of the infinite mercy of God. Jesus forgave even those who crucified and scorned him.”

“To follow the way of the Lord, the Church is called on to dispense its mercy over all those who recognize themselves as sinners, who assume responsibility for the evil they have committed, and who feel in need of forgiveness. The Church does not exist to condemn people, but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God’s mercy.”

“I often say that in order for this to happen, it is necessary to go out: to go out from the churches and the parishes, to go outside and look for people where they live, where they suffer, and where they hope. I like to use the image of a field hospital to describe this “Church that goes forth”. It exists where there is combat. It is not a solid structure with all the equipment where people go to receive treatment for both small and large infirmities. It is a mobile structure that offers first aid and immediate care, so that its soldiers do not die.”

“It is a place for urgent care, not a place to see a specialist. I hope that the Jubilee [The Holy Year of Mercy] will serve to reveal the Church’s deeply maternal and merciful side, a Church that goes forth toward those who are “wounded,” who are in need of an attentive ear, understanding, forgiveness, and love.”

(Taken From “The Name of God is Mercy”)
We pray for the Church:

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father

April
- Universal: Small Farmers
  That they may receive a just reward for their precious labour.
- Evangelization: African Christians
  That they may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

May
- Universal: Respect for Women
  That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.
- Evangelization: Holy Rosary
  That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

June
- Universal: Human Solidarity
  That the aged, marginalized, and those who have no one may find, even within the huge cities of the world, opportunities for encounter and solidarity.
- Evangelization: Seminarians and Novices
  That they may have mentors who live the joy of the Gospel and prepare them wisely for their mission.

We pray for the World:

International Mother Earth Day (April 22)
For many, climate change seems like a remote problem, but the reality is that it is already affecting people, animals and places around the world. A change needs to be made. On April 22 we are harnessing the power of Earth Day to show the world the necessity of a significant action on climate.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (May 21)
In a diverse world, the destruction of cultures is a crime, and uniformity is a dead-end: our aim must be to enhance, in one movement, the diversity that enriches us and the human rights that bring us together. The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.

World Day to Combat Desertification (June 17)
Desertification is the persistent degradation of dryland ecosystems by human activities — including unsustainable farming, mining, overgrazing and clear-cutting of land — and by climate change. Land degradation and desertification undercuts human rights, starting with the right to food. The day reminds us that we need to take an action for securing every hectare of land that can provide food or freshwater. We must avoid degrading more land and, at the same time, rehabilitate all the degraded land that we can.

We pray for and with the Congregatio Jesu:

- CJ European Regional Conference in York
  April 18-20
  Fr Philip Endean, SJ will work for the conference as a new facilitator from this session.

- Collective Efforts within the CJ for "the Change" towards the Future

- CRAL Interprovincial Novitiate in Cuba
  CRAL interprovincial Novitiate has been moved from Chile to Cuba. Sr Eudosia Moncada, the new novice director, accompanies one 1st year Cuban novice and one 2nd year Romanian novice.

- Formators’ Conference 2016
  June 28 – July 7
  Via Nomentana 250, Rome, Italy

- New Novice Directors
  Sr Eudosia Moncada (CRAL) and Sr Bernadette Takaindisa (Zimbabwe Region) begin their roles as novice directors.

- Diamond Jubilee
  Sr Josie Bulger (English Province) celebrates her diamond jubilee on April 26.