

THE YEAR OF MERCY

Love and Hope in Action

During his recent visit to the United States of America, precisely at the Philadelphia Correctional Facility, Pope Francis addressed the inmates and their families, stating that he was there not only as a pastor but also as a brother who wanted to share in their situation.

He also implored to all Americans not to forget prisoners. This comes as part of his global mission to tend to the poor, forgotten and the neglected. Pope Francis encouraged the inmates by telling them that the world should be giving them a helping hand in getting them back on the right track:

“All of us are part of that effort, all of us are invited to encourage, help and enable your rehabilitation.” Such work, he noted, “benefits and elevates the morale of the entire community.”

Pope Francis, 27 September, 2015

During this year of Mercy, we are also asked to follow suit and show our love, compassion and mercy to a world which is hurting. Thus, this **Lent**, we wanted to do something completely different.

We asked the children to buy a packet of biscuits for the Inmates servicing at the Corradino Correctional Facility. These special packets of biscuits baked by Maypole Confectioners, were made in the shape of letters that form the words ‘Love’ and ‘Hope’. This was our ‘Love and Hope in Action’ for the Year of Mercy. We explained to the students our special act of mercy during a special assembly. An important thing to note was that Maypole provided them at a very reduced price and no profit was made neither by Maypole nor by the school.

After the biscuits were brought to schools, the children were asked to write a sentence that shows God’s love and mercy. These were fixed on top of the packet of biscuits. Afterwards, Fr Franco Fenech, resident chaplain at the Corradino Correctional Facility was kindly asked to pick up the biscuits from school so that he could then distribute them to the inmates.

Hopefully with these small gestures, our students will learn how such acts of mercy can really and truly confirm God’s love because ‘it is in giving that we receive’ – St. Francis of Assisi.