

**What Are We Doing and Why
in this Holy Year of Mercy?**

I resurrect these WAWDAW reflections for the Year of Mercy, at least on occasion if not every week, in hopes of helping us all, myself included, get the most out of this special time of grace.

I begin with a description of the *Merciful Like the Father* logo, designed for the Jubilee by the Slovenian artist and Jesuit priest Marko Ivan Rupnik, who works and teaches in Rome.

The words *Merciful Like the Father* are taken from the Gospel of Luke (6:36), and serve as an invitation to us to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn, but to love and forgive without measure after his own example.

The ancient image of Jesus the Good Shepherd is given a twist here as Jesus bears on his shoulders now not a sheep, but a man, symbolizing the way Jesus seeks us out to restore and carry us closer to God, his loving Father and ours.

One curious feature of the image is that while Jesus the Merciful Shepherd takes our humanity upon himself, his eyes are also merged with ours. As the artist explains, *Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the New Adam, our own humanity, contemplating in this gaze the love and mercy of the Father.*

The way the colors of the three concentric background ovals move from darker to lighter suggest how Christ carries us out of darkness into the light, out of the night of sin and brokenness into the light of healing and wholeness.