



## Becoming jubilee

Recently, friends of mine celebrated their golden jubilee – 50 years of marriage – an impressive milestone on their life Camino. The occasion got me thinking about jubilee. Leviticus (25:11-12), decreed jubilees to occur in the year after seven times seven years. It was a holy year, a special occasion of celebration, a year of rest, of restoration, reconciliation, return, and release.

There was to be no sowing or work during a jubilee year, a hiatus, a fallow year, giving time for the earth and laborers to recuperate. It was also a time of restoration, forgiving debts, leveling the playing fields socially and economically, canceling obligations, reconciling, releasing slaves and prisoners. In addition it was a time when people returned to their ancestral homes, a pilgrimage to revisit their origins.

The wonderful gift and grace of a jubilee was the possibility and opportunity of a new beginning, the freedom for anyone to start anew.

Interestingly, in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, Jesus goes back, returns to Nazareth, to his origins, and there in the synagogue, on the Sabbath, preaches his first sermon, based on Isaiah 61:1-3. In it, he says, “I am jubilee,” (I am the Lord’s year of favor). In announcing himself as jubilee, Jesus gathers up into himself all the qualities of jubilee. He is redemption, rest, release, reconciliation and restoration, he is liberty and a new beginning, our origin and the ground of our Being. This is actually what we have been celebrating these Resurrection days, and will continue to reflect on in the Easter weeks of April – *Jesus Jubilee*.

The couple I mentioned, who celebrated their 50 years of marriage, were both surprised and humbled to realize how, not only were they celebrating their jubilee, but over the years, they had, like Jesus, *become* jubilee. Easter invites us to seize grace, the Holy Spirit, and become a moment or occasion for rest, reconciliation, restoration, release, and

return – a new beginning.

This month of Spring, which is an annual reminder of regeneration, invites us to also become *Jesus Jubilee*.

Blessings,

*Michael*

P.S. It struck me how *jubilee* also applies to where we find ourselves in our world today. This month, could we make our prayer intention *Jubilee in Gaza and Ukraine*. May all prisoners, on both sides, be released, may land be restored, may there be reconciliation and peace and a new beginning for the people caught in these horrific wars.

### To Come Home to Yourself

May all that is unforgiven in you  
Be released.

May your fears yield  
Their deepest tranquilities.

May all that is un-lived in you  
Blossom into a future  
Graced with love.

JOHN O’DONOHUE  
*To Bless the Space Between us*

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## Grateful for your support

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