

## PRAYER & REFLECTION FOR A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOOR

The Jubilee is a time for mercy, joy, forgiveness and hope. We journey together in body and spirit on pilgrimage to our destination in heaven where God will wipe away every tear. We recall that Jesus is the Door, and as we walk through the Door we can imagine ourselves walking into his heart.

### *Suggested prayer as you walk through the Holy Door*

“Lord Jesus purify my heart as I walk through this Holy Door. I enter into the most holy dwelling place of your heart. Let me leave behind all that is not of you and receive your infinite gift of mercy, which I do not deserve. Through the strength of your love, sustain me, O Lord, in the inner peaceful dwelling of your heart. Be always my companion on this life’s pilgrimage toward You. Help me to strive for patient perseverance as I mature in faith and accept with thanksgiving the joy that your Gospel brings. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.”

### *Reflection after walking through the Holy Door*

Passing through the Holy Door we recall the pilgrimage of our life journey, the struggles and joys. Take some time in the church after you have crossed the threshold of the Holy Door to contemplate this renewed sense of hope and reflect on Jesus who also knocks on the door to your heart and asks to come in.

## LIFE ITSELF ..... ..... IS A PILGRIMAGE

“The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a *viator*, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.” Pope Francis, *Misericordiae vultus 14*

### CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE OF FARGO WITH HOLY DOORS

- Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo
- Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton
- St. Ann, Belcourt
- St. Cecilia, Harvey
- Basilica of St. James, Jamestown
- St. Joseph, Devils Lake
- St. Michael, Grand Forks
- St. Philip Neri, Napoleon
- St. Stanislaus, Warsaw

### PILGRIMAGE SITES WITH HOLY DOORS OUTSIDE OF THE DIOCESE OF FARGO

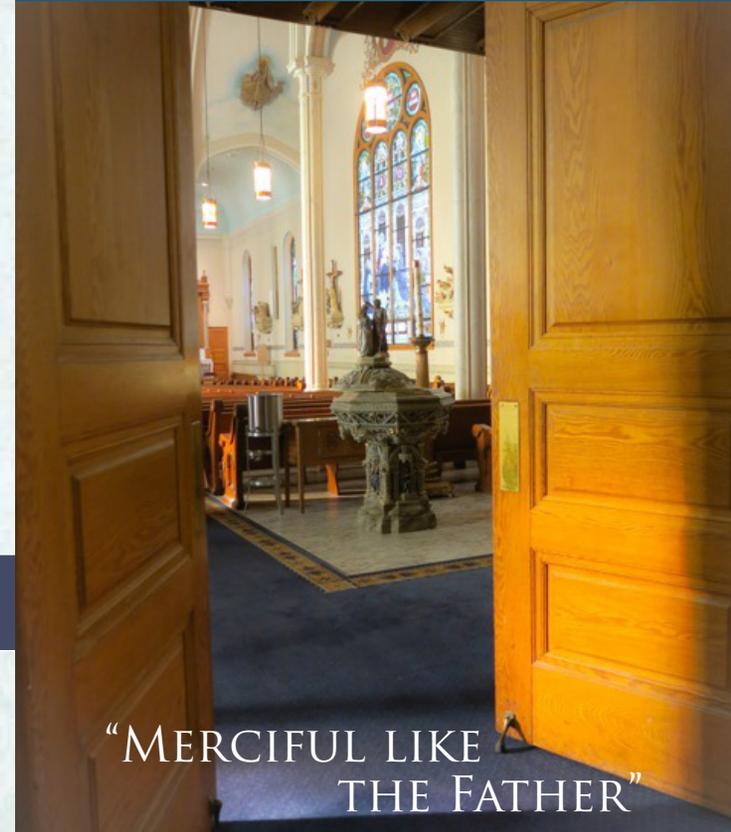
- Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Bismarck, ND
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston, MN
- Cathedral of St. Joseph, Sioux Falls, SD
- Cathedral of St. Boniface, Winnipeg, Canada
- Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, LaCrosse, WI



THE DIOCESE OF FARGO  
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# HOLY DOOR & PILGRIMAGE



EXTRAORDINARY

*Jubilee of Mercy*

December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016

## THE HOLY DOOR OF MERCY

The Jubilee Year of Mercy includes the opening of the Holy Door. The Holy Father proclaims, "the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy in which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope." Pope Francis, *Misericordiae vultus* 3

The Holy Door is a specially designated entrance that has spiritual and symbolic meaning. The door becomes a symbol of Christ. Jesus says, "I am the Door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved." (John 10:9)



The Holy Door is also a pathway of grace. To focus upon the door is to recall the responsibility of every believer to cross its threshold. To pass through that door means to receive the offer of mercy given to us and to begin anew. It is to strengthen our faith in him and to leave behind sin as we enter into grace.

There is only one way that opens wide the entrance into the life of communion with God: this is Jesus. To him alone can the words of the Psalmist be applied in full truth: "This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter" (Ps 118:20).

Pilgrims receive a plenary indulgence when they prayerfully enter through the Holy Door (see brochure "Confession and Indulgences" for the conditions for receiving the Jubilee Indulgence).

*Pope St. John Paul II opening the Holy Door for the extraordinary Jubilee in 1983*

In Rome there are four basilicas that have Holy Doors which are only opened during a Jubilee Year. For most cathedrals and other designated churches in the world a normal door will be converted into a Holy Door for the Jubilee Year.



The tradition of opening a Holy Door during Jubilee Years first occurred officially in 1500, and followed thereafter as an important rite of passage for a Jubilee Year. The last Jubilee Year occurred in 2000 and the next ordinary Jubilee will be celebrated in 2025.

The Holy Father will begin the ceremony by opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on December 8, 2015. The Holy Father has asked that a Holy Door of Mercy be opened in the cathedrals and other churches of significance around the world on December 13, 2015.

Here in the Diocese of Fargo, the Holy Door will be opened at the Cathedral of St. Mary and in other designated churches around the diocese on that day. The Holy Door will then be closed on the Sunday celebrating Christ the King, November 20, 2016.

*Bishop Sullivan opens the Holy Door for the Great Jubilee of 2000 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo*



## PILGRIMAGE



Passage through the Holy Door is by way of pilgrimage, as the Holy Father says, "To reach the Holy Door everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage."

Pilgrimage is a journey from one place to another where we open ourselves to encounter God. Pilgrimage is a reflection of our life journey, the joys and sorrows and the constant movement forward until we reach our destination.

There is a difference between being a pilgrim and being a tourist. A tourist goes on vacation to see things, while a pilgrim goes on a pilgrimage with a special intent to encounter God and travels with hope for graces to be received. People generally associate pilgrimage with traveling far away to the Holy Land or Rome, but a pilgrimage can also be to holy places right in your own town.

For those unable to make a physical pilgrimage, such as the sick, elderly or imprisoned, the Holy Father says they can offer their suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord. It is with faith, joyful hope, receiving communion and prayer that the Jubilee Indulgence can then be obtained.

Pilgrims can travel to their sacred destination by any means, but the traditional way is by walking. As the Holy Father mentions for this Holy Year of Mercy, the journey of the pilgrimage "...will be a sign that mercy is a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice." *Misericordiae vultus* 14