



## DECREE

### On the Designation of Holy Doors for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* which began on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and will conclude on November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

As part of this special time for the Church, when "...the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective," Pope Francis asks for a **Holy Door** to be opened "in every local church, at the Cathedral—the mother church of the faithful—in any particular area" and at other churches of "special significance" designated for the duration of the Jubilee Year.

On September 1, 2015, our Holy Father wrote of his desire that "...all the faithful...will experience the grace of the Jubilee" and that "...the Jubilee Indulgences may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father, who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed."

To experience and obtain the Jubilee Indulgences, Pope Francis asks the faithful "...to make a brief pilgrimage to the **Holy Door**, open in every Cathedral or in shrines or churches designated, ... as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion."

**THEREFORE, I HEREBY DECREE that, beginning February 14, 2016, First Sunday of Lent, and throughout the Jubilee Year of Mercy**, the following churches in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau are holy sites and places of pilgrimage where a **Holy Door, a Door of Mercy**, will be opened and where the clergy, religious, and faithful can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence:

- St. Agnes Cathedral - Springfield
- St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral - Cape Girardeau
- St. Mary Church - Joplin
- Immaculate Conception Church - New Madrid
- Sacred Heart Church - Salem
- St. George Mission - Van Buren
- St. Mary Church - West Plains

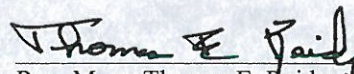
Pilgrims who pass through a **Holy Door of Mercy** with the proper intention and disposition, and fulfill the conditions ordinarily attached to a plenary indulgence (cf. canon 992), can obtain a Jubilee Indulgence once a day for either themselves or for the souls of the faithful departed.

The Holy Father has stated that, in order to receive this Jubilee Indulgence, this passage through a **Holy Door** must be linked with saying the Profession of Faith, praying for the Holy Father and his intentions, and going to a celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. With regards to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, the Holy Father further instructed, "Each time that one faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence."

Please note that those who, due to illness or other legitimate reason, are unable to leave their place of residence may nonetheless obtain the Jubilee Indulgence by uniting themselves in spirit with the faithful and offering their prayers and suffering in accord with the objectives of the Year of Mercy. Similarly, those who are incarcerated "may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons."

Given in The Catholic Center, in Springfield, Missouri, this Second day of February, in the Year of Our Lord 2016, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.



  
Rev. Msgr. Thomas E. Reidy  
Diocesan Administrator

  
Rev. Thomas P. Kiefer  
Vice-Chancellor