



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Diocesan Parishes  
**From:** Jeanne Marie Miles  
**Re:** Jubilee Indulgence  
**Date:** 29 April 2016

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On September 1, 2015, Pope Francis issued a letter granting an Indulgence to the Faithful on the Occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

In light of this special Indulgence, it seems timely to offer information on obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence. This information may be used for the catechesis of the faithful in whatever way seems most efficient for your parish.

In the Diocese of Cleveland, all Members of the Christian Faithful who wish to seek the Jubilee Indulgence are to:

- Make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open at the **Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist**, Cleveland, Ohio, and at Our Lady of Lourdes National Shrine at any time during the Year of Mercy, and cross over the threshold of mercy as a sign of their deep desire for true conversion;
- Sacramentally confess their sins;
- Participate in the celebration of, and receive, the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy;
- Make a profession of faith;
- Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis;

While the first two conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after the performance of the indulgenced work, it is fitting that Communion be received, the prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father be made, and the profession of faith be said on the same day.

A single sacramental confession suffices for several plenary indulgences but receiving Communion and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father are required for each indulgence.

Those who perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy may also, by their actions, obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. The Holy Father states, "Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of the works of mercy, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of

complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one. The Jubilee Indulgence is thus full, the fruit of the very event which is to be celebrated and experienced with faith, hope, and charity.”

His Holiness, Pope Francis has further decreed the conditions for obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence for those of the Christian Faithful for whom it is impossible to physically cross the threshold of the Holy Door, namely:

- The sick, people who are elderly and alone, the homebound.  
Those who are chronically or terminally ill, elderly, or otherwise confined by physical condition, while living with faith and joyful hope during their trials, may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence by receiving Communion or attending the Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various forms of media.
- The incarcerated.  
Those who are living in prisons may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. Directing their thoughts and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell will, for them, signify passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.
- The deceased.  
The Holy Father reminds us that we may gain the Jubilee Indulgence not only for ourselves, but for the deceased as well. He states: “...as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.”

I encourage parishes to distribute this information to the faithful in whatever format seems most helpful. Please contact the Office for Worship with any follow-up questions.

In Christ,

Jeanne Marie Miles,

Director,  
Office for Worship

