

Regarding the Plenary Indulgence for the Year of Mercy

On April 11, 2015, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced that an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy would begin on December 8, 2015, and extend through November 20, 2016. As part of this Year of Mercy, the Catholic faithful have the opportunity to obtain plenary indulgences.

To understand what an indulgence is, one first has to understand that sin has a double consequence. As is noted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the 'eternal punishment' of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the "temporal punishment" of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind

of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin. A conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain." (1472)

"The forgiveness of sin and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment of sin, but temporal punishment of sin remains. While patiently bearing sufferings and trials of all kinds and, when the day comes, serenely facing death, the Christian must strive to accept this temporal punishment of sin as a grace. He should strive by works of mercy and charity, as well as by prayer and the various practices of penance, to put off completely the 'old man' and to put on the 'new man.'" (1473)

An indulgence, therefore, is the remission before God of all or part of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven.

How to Receive the Year of Mercy Indulgence

To receive the Year of Mercy indulgence, you must fulfill the usual conditions, and perform the act carrying with it the indulgence, which is: passing through a designated Holy Door during the Year of Mercy, or performing one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy.

As for the sick and the elderly, the Holy Father says, "For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of His Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence."

For the imprisoned, the Holy Father says, "They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their 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."

You may receive the plenary indulgence once per day, either for yourself or you may offer it for a soul in purgatory.

The plenary indulgence may be obtained under the normal conditions: namely, by having the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, receiving sacramental Confession and the Holy Eucharist, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:

"If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests His power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.



Diocese
of Toledo

www.toledodiocese.org/yearofmercy



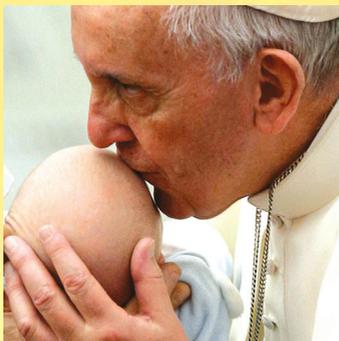
THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO
CELEBRATES THE
YEAR OF MERCY
DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016

During this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, every Catholic in the Diocese of Toledo has the opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

This brochure is your guide to learn more about plenary indulgences and the locations of Holy Door sites within the Diocese.

Rich in Mercy

"Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, 'rich in mercy' (Eph 2:4), after having revealed his name to Moses as 'a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness' (Ex 34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the 'fullness of time, when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way.' (Gal. 4:4) 'Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Jesus



of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God."

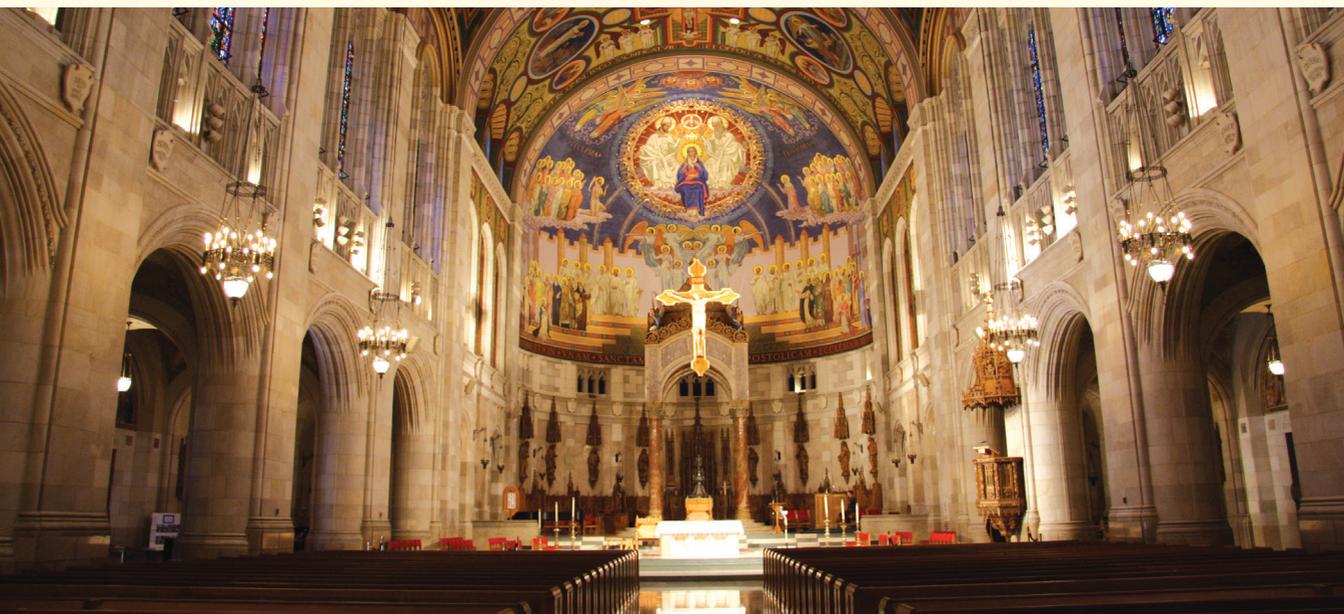
"We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person

who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness." (Misericordiae Vultus, 1-3)

Pilgrimage to the Holy Door

"I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence 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 Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop... as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion... "

(Pope Francis letter to Archbishop Fisichella, September 1, 2015)



YEAR OF MERCY



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"I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence."

Pope Francis Letter to Archbishop Fisichella, September 1, 2015

HOLY DOOR SITES

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

2535 Collingwood Boulevard
Toledo, Ohio

(Holy Door accessible Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Weekends before, during and after all scheduled Masses and Confessions)

Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation

315 Clay Street
Carey, Ohio

(Holy Door accessible 24 hours every day)

Divine Mercy Parish

417 North Main Street
Paulding, Ohio

(Holy Door accessible Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 7:00 pm; Saturdays 8:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sundays 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm)

Sorrowful Mother Shrine

4106 State Route 269
Bellevue, Ohio

(Holy Door accessible daily 8:00 am to dusk)

THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

*Admonish the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowful
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living
and the dead*

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

*Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick
Visit the imprisoned
Bury the dead*