



DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Introduction to the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced on April 11th that he would open a special “Jubilee Year of Mercy” on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in this year. The Jubilee will conclude with the liturgical year on the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 20, 2016.

The Jubilee of Mercy is a year to be lived intensely in each particular Church, allowing every person to encounter the mercy of God the Father through diligent labor for the Church’s mission there. Pope Francis states: “It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.” The most evident sign of this pastoral care is the chance to open a Door of Mercy in every diocese. These doors, analogous to the Holy Doors of the Papal Basilicas in Rome, will permit even people who cannot travel to Rome to make a Jubilee pilgrimage and obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

The Jubilee of Mercy centers on the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a rediscovery of the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy which the faithful are encouraged to personally perform. Special attention is to be given to those for whom it is difficult or impossible to make a “pilgrimage” – particularly the sick, the elderly, those confined to their homes, the hospitalized, and those imprisoned.

Here in the Diocese of Camden, Bishop Sullivan asks every pastor to consult with his parish staff and pastoral council in implementing a pastoral plan that highlights the importance of the Jubilee of Mercy.

Deans are asked to coordinate and facilitate cooperation among parishes and clergy in an effort to not overburden any particular parish – especially in making the Sacrament of Reconciliation available to the faithful. Deans are likewise asked to serve as a conduit of information between the parishes and the Jubilee of Mercy Committee of the Diocese.