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TIMOTHY MICHAEL CARDINAL DOLAN  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE APOSTOLIC SEE  
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

**DECREE**  
**On The Designation Of Holy Doors**  
**For The Extraordinary Jubilee Of Mercy**

On April 11, 2015, in *Misericordiae vultus*, the Decree of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, our Holy Father, Pope Francis proclaimed a *Jubilee Year of Mercy* throughout the Catholic Church which opens on December 8, 2015 and concludes on November 20, 2016.

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 by the Diocesan Bishop, for the duration of the Jubilee Year.

Pope Francis wants these *Holy Doors* to become a "*Door of Mercy* through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God, Who consoles, pardons, and instills hope."

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

**THEREFORE**, in communion with our Holy Father and in a spirit of pastoral solicitude for all in the Archdiocese of New York entrusted to my care,

**I HEREBY DECREE that, beginning December 13, 2015 and throughout the Jubilee Year of Mercy**, the following shrines and churches in the Archdiocese of New York 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:

- Saint Patrick's Cathedral (New York City)
- Basilica of Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral (New York City)
- Saint Frances Cabrini Shrine (New York City)
- National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Middletown)
- National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians (Stony Point)

All those who, on pilgrimage, enter a *Door of Mercy* with the proper intention and disposition, and fulfill the conditions ordinarily attached to a plenary indulgence (C. 992), can obtain a *Jubilee* Indulgence once daily for either for themselves or for the souls of the faithful departed.

The usual and prescribed conditions for gaining a plenary indulgence of temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven are:

- Baptized Catholics in the state of grace (free from mortal or grave sin) who have the intention of gaining the indulgence must:
- Have an interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial or less grave sin;
- Go to Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation) within twenty days after performing the indulgenced work (pilgrimage to the *Door of Mercy*);
- Receive the Holy Eucharist within twenty days after performing the indulgenced work (pilgrimage to the *Door of Mercy*);
- Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father within twenty days after performing the indulgenced work (pilgrimage to the *Door of Mercy*). This prayer is up to the individual, but customary and suggested prayers are: the Profession of Faith (Creed from the Mass) or one "Our Father" and one "Hail Mary."
- It is appropriate but not necessary that Sacramental Confession, reception of the Holy Eucharist, and prayer for the Pope's intentions take place at the time of the indulgenced work (pilgrimage to the *Door of Mercy*).

In establishing these holy sites and *Doors of Mercy*, it is my hope that they will be the means by which the clergy, religious, and faithful discover a path to conversion, and have a profound experience of God's grace, reconciliation, and mercy. In this *Jubilee Year*, as we come to know the Face of God's Mercy, may we show God's Face of Mercy to the world, through the thoughts, words, and actions of our daily lives.

**Given in the Archdiocese of New York** this thirtieth day of November two thousand and fifteen, Feast Saint Andrew, Apostle.



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Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan  
Archbishop of New York



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Rev. Monsignor Gregory Mustaciucolo  
Chancellor