

THE MAGNIFICAT

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The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE



A Message of Special Welcome



Dear Friend in Christ,

Welcome to the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy here at The Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe . . . “this place of pilgrimage,” as Pope John Paul the Great was first to call us.

The friends and supporters of our Shrine family are especially grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for proclaiming this Jubilee Year a time set apart that encourages every Catholic to undertake the task of personal renewal.

So, too, we acknowledge with much gratitude, the Most Reverend John G. Noonan, Bishop of Orlando, who has declared Mary’s Shrine a place of special pilgrimage where visitors may enter through the Basilica’s Holy Doors to participate more vibrantly in this Jubilee Year.

In your time with us, we invite you to experience the welcoming warmth and pastoral serenity of this holy place as both a pilgrim and friend. Join with us as together we recommit ourselves to the life and work of today’s Church.

In the love of Jesus and Mary

The Very Reverend Paul J. Henry, Rector



Created by Domus Dei Studio, Rome

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Mary, Queen of the Universe
by Jill Burkee

Prayer of *His Holiness Pope Francis* for the Extraordinary Jubilee 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.*

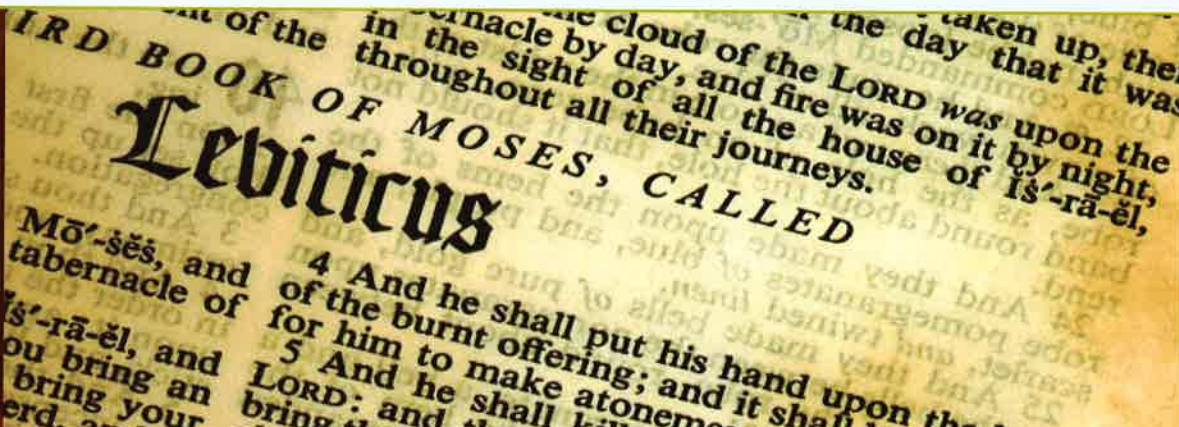
*You willed that your ministers would also be clothed
in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those
in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them
feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.*

*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.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy



March 2015

And yet, while the idea of solemnizing a fiftieth anniversary was familiar to monks and medieval writers, the earliest known Christian expression of the cycle was not celebrated until the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII instituted the first such Jubilee. It was to be a special year called by the Church during which the faithful could receive blessing and pardon from God and, importantly, remission of sins.

Down through the centuries, subsequent jubilees called every 25 to 50 years, together with special jubilees – “extraordinary jubilee years” – served both to popularize and engrain the practice. The last jubilee year, known as “the Great Jubilee,” was held in 2000 during the papacy of Pope John Paul II. The last extraordinary jubilee year was held in 1983 to celebrate 1,950 years since the death and resurrection of Jesus.

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OPENING WIDE

the Doors to Christ

Still today,
Holy Year pilgrims
enter the basilica through
the Holy Door as a sign of their
repentance and re-commitment
to a life of faith.

Doors of Mercy

"... the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope."

- Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus

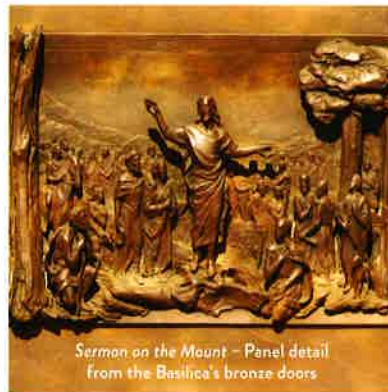
The Holy Doors are portals both symbolic and tangible.

As reported by Vatican history, the designation of a Holy Door may trace back to the ancient Christian practice of public penitence when sinners were given public penances to perform before receiving absolution. The penitents were not allowed to enter a church before completing the penance, but they were solemnly welcomed back in when their penance was fulfilled. Still today, Holy Year pilgrims enter the basilica through the Holy Door as a sign of their repentance and re-commitment to a life of faith.

The opening and closing of the Holy Door would each be occasioned by formal ceremonies to mark "the period of time set aside for men and women to sanctify their souls."

The ritual for opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica goes back to 1499 when Pope Alexander VI opened the door on Christmas Eve to inaugurate the Holy Year 1500.

For centuries, the doors at St. Peter's were opened with a silver hammer, not a key, "because the doors of justice and mercy give way only to the force



Sermon on the Mount - Panel detail from the Basilica's bronze doors

of prayer and penance." In opening the Holy Year 2000, it should be noted that Pope John Paul II used neither a hammer nor a key; instead, he strongly pushed open the massive door.

In preparing for the current jubilee, Pope Francis gave the formal

proclamation of this "Holy Year of Mercy" to the archpriests of the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major, which each have Holy Doors that are opened during jubilee years. The only other Holy Doors in the world were at Quebec City's Basilica of Notre-Dame de Basde; the shrine of St. John Vianney in Ars, France; and at the Cathedral of St. James the Great in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. But for this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of 2015-2016, Orlando's Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe is among those churches worldwide newly designated for this honor as well.



Portals of Faith by Jill Burkee and Giancarlo Biagi

PORTALS OF FAITH

Indulgences For the Jubilee Year

As in past celebrations, the Holy Father has instructed that special indulgences be made available for the faithful through the duration of this Jubilee Year. As the Catechism of the Church highlights, an Indulgence is, “An experience of the incredible generosity of God who, through Christ, conveys God’s mercy and abundance and bringing the assurance that any punishment of sin is taken away.”

(CCC, 1471)

To Obtain An Indulgence During the Year of Mercy

Crossing through the Holy Door is a spiritual journey that signals, as the Holy Father said, “*the deep desire for true conversion.*”

- Go to confession.
- Receive the Holy Eucharist “with a reflection of mercy.”
 - Make a profession on faith.
- Pray for the Intentions of our Holy Father Pope Francis
This may be a prayerful recitation of the “Our Father” and the “Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee” and asking God’s protection for him.
- End the time of prayer with an invocation. For example, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me, a sinner.”



Nativity Panel created by Jill Burkee and Giancarlo Biagi

In This Year of Mercy

Extending the Sacraments

"Show me the way to Ars, and I will show you the way to Heaven."

St. John Vianney, Patron Saint of priests and confessors

Forgiveness is a mercy enshrined in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an acknowledgment of our humanity and in the acceptance of God's love for the world.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Basilica is host to the Holy Doors, a singular honor bestowed upon us within the Diocese of Orlando by The Most Reverend Bishop John Noonan. And while our entire Basilica family has been humbled by this new opportunity to serve so many thousands who have made their pilgrimage to Mary's Shrine, thus far in the Jubilee, these increasing numbers of visitors have revealed "growing pains" that must be addressed.

When Mary's Shrine was first envisioned and designed in the 1980's; plans called for the confessional space to be sited behind the Adoration Chapel – an area well located for contemplation and private moments. Yet, as this ministry has continued to welcome ever larger number of visitors, the Shrine has simply outgrown its confessional space. Each year now brings upwards of 14,000 men, women and children wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation – numbers far greater than planners had first envisioned.

As these numbers are projected to further increase, so our need to expand

this critical outreach, already great, grows greater still.

As such, the Basilica has begun an expansion project that includes construction of two, new confessional rooms just off the Narthex, plus a dedicated waiting space with ample seating, all designed to significantly enhance the contemplative experience and increase availability of the Sacrament of Confession here at Mary's Shrine.

Spiritually illuminating this new confessional space will be a specially commissioned, Italian marble relief of St. John Vianney, the beloved patron saint of priests, who is universally remembered for his impassioned advocacy of extending the Sacrament of Reconciliation to all who sought after it. So important was it to him, that he would often spend more than 12 hours each day hearing confessions.

It is a commitment today shared by the priests of Mary's Shrine.

Indeed, as the faithful would make a pilgrimage to consult with Fr. Vianney in his simple French parish, so too our Basilica welcomes in weary pilgrims who are in search of pardon and, above all, a sense of renewal and their chance to draw ever nearer to Holy Mary and Her Divine Son.



Conceptual design for expansion of confessionals by RLF Architecture

Enriching the Liturgy

A New Home For Sacred Music in America

As music nourishes both heart and soul, sacred music gives voice to prayer.

For the Christian, it is a transformative experience arising from the rich tradition of Hebrew psalms and canticles.

Sacred music stirs thought and emotions that focus our minds on faith, unity and righteousness. It energizes us, helping to give shape and purpose to our lives.

So it was that integrating the rich repository of sacred music into the liturgical ministry of Mary's Shrine became a foundation stone for this new apostolate well before blueprints were drawn.

All that remains to be fulfilled from the early vision of a new home for sacred music at the Basilica is the design, building and installation of a major pipe organ which -- in the words of Shrine Founder, Monsignor F. Joseph

Harte -- "would for generations to come lend inspiration and encouragement to our Liturgical celebrations."

And today, that vision is closer to reality than ever before!

The major objective of the Basilica's Campaign for Sacred Music is to acquire a pipe organ of the first magnitude, an instrument without rival in the state of Florida. The design calls for upwards of 5,000 pipes, the largest of which would stretch as high as 32 feet and the smallest, no taller than the length of a pencil, but all working to produce harmonic sounds of uncompromising richness and purity that will make possible the broadest spectrum of repertoire, from sacred classical pieces to 20th/21st century works.

A design so bold requires an ambitious commitment of funds from friends of our worldwide Basilica family. And, true to form, our friends have answered

the call to enrich the experience of sacred music within the Basilica, already subscribing more than 89 percent of the organ's multi-million-dollar cost. Many thanks to these devoted friends of Mary's Shrine. For in these generous gifts, not only can we see the light at the end of our long campaign, we can also hear the music that is to come!



Dr. Picher visiting a major pipe organ manufacturer

REQUIEM FOR THE INNOCENTS

Our **2016-2017 Basilica Concert Series** will begin with a new piece of profoundly moving choral music entitled, "Requiem for the Innocents" performed by the Basilica Choir here at Mary's Shrine on **October 28th at 7:30p.m.** Composed by E. Louis Canter, OEF, with a world premiere last November, "Requiem" calls us to reflect on the effects of abortion and the hope for reconciliation, and forgiveness and healing for transgressions against life.

Interweaving Latin and English texts from the mass and Scripture, Canter takes listeners from the cry of Rachel and the loss of children, to reflections of women who have undergone abortions and their hope of Reconciliation. **In this Jubilee Year, our Holy Father Pope Francis calls for tender mercies and healing for those mothers who have undergone this experience in their life.** As Pope Francis declared in his letter to announce the Jubilee Year of Mercy, he wrote: *"I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision; what has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it can enable one not to lose hope. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with God."* And so we pray for each other, especially for those who journey on this road to recovery... and let us pray for one another as each of us deals with our own vulnerabilities and seek the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Perpetual Legacy

*"I offer my blessing upon this holy work.
I will remember you and all Shrine
benefactors in my daily prayers."*

- The promise of Pope John Paul the Great



The National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe provides Christ's faithful a broad range of legacy opportunities to be remembered, in perpetuity, within this holy ministry – "this house of pilgrimage."

Through commemorative gifts, our supporters can forever link their names with the life and work of Mary's Shrine; honor births, marriages and other family milestones; or even perpetuate the memory of friends and loved ones who have been called home to God.

To explore the many heartfelt and rewarding ways you can become part of the legacy at Mary's Shrine and sustain this holy apostolate, please visit our website, call our office, or email our Memorials Coordinator at memorials@mqus.org



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