



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Diocese to begin Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy by opening Holy Door

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Dec. 9, 2015) – Pope Francis has called for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy from Dec. 8, 2015 – Nov. 20, 2016. The Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican was opened on Dec. 8, while the opening of the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Rome, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13. Pope Francis has asked that cathedrals and other churches with special significance also designate and open a Door of Mercy on this date for the duration of the Holy Year.

"A Jubilee Year typically happens every 25 years. However, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called for a special Jubilee Year of Mercy for the church. He calls for an extraordinary Jubilee Year to focus on the mercy and love of Jesus. It will be a year of special grace and forgiveness, pardoning of debts and bountiful gestures of compassion and generosity," said Bishop David L. Ricken. "During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, you will have the opportunity to receive many graces when you cross the threshold of these 'Holy Doors.' Crossing the thresholds should also include devout Mass attendance, devout prayer and receiving the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) either at that same visit or shortly before or after at your home parish. Your prayerful pilgrimage to one of these 'Holy Doors,' either at our mother church, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, or one of the shrines of the diocese, will provide you the opportunity to receive an indulgence, which is a special grace."

On Dec. 13, the diocese will honor the pope's request by opening a "Holy Door" to St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion and the Shrine of St. Joseph; now located in Old St. Joe's Church at St. Norbert College in De Pere.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, located at 140 South Monroe Avenue, Green Bay, WI, will celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy and opening of the Holy Door on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9:00 a.m. The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, located at 4047 Chapel Drive, Champion, WI, will celebrate the opening just prior to their normally scheduled Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13. The Shrine of St. Joseph, located in Old St. Joe's Church at 123 Grant Street, De Pere, WI, will open their Holy Door before the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 13.

To provide you with additional information about the significance of a "Holy Door", please see the attached link provided by Catholic News Service: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eltw6\\_23-q8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eltw6_23-q8)

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**Who we are:** The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay boldly proclaims the Gospel of Jesus, prayerfully worships in word and sacrament, and compassionately serves those in need. Rooted in the call to form missionary disciples, we strive to spread the good news of God's love and mercy. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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