



Who can I bless with kindness today?

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in the Vatican as a sign of the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. He wrote, “...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.” Passage through a Jubilee Holy Door is an outward sign of a person’s decision to leave their past lives to enter a new life, a renewed life in Christ.

To unite ourselves with the Church in every corner of the world, we are encouraging you to designate a door in your convent/home and your bedroom door as a “door of mercy.” These doors will remind us to celebrate that the Church has opened a Year of Mercy and to unite with a people hungry for God’s mercy.

Jesus Christ is the door of God’s heart. Through him, God’s infinite mercy takes our flesh and walks into our pain, our joy, our struggles, and our longings. During this year we are invited to gaze ever more attentively on God’s mercy so that we may become more effective signs of God’s action in our lives. The Year of Mercy starts in our own hearts. When our own hearts are convinced we have been touched with mercy, we can witness more strongly and more effectively to others.

We recognize as we pass through our doors of mercy, we are called not to “build our tent” in this space but to emerge through these same holy doors and cross the thresholds of other sacred doors—doors, where we encounter the face of God in the poor and the physically or spiritually marginalized. We are called to be witnesses to God’s enduring love and limitless mercy through our own engagement with those who have not felt love nor known mercy from others.

Let us begin this Holy Year by blessing our doors and offering, to ourselves and all who pass through them, a blessing of kindness in this Year of Mercy. We encourage you to bless your bedroom door and possibly put a symbol or picture to remind yourself as you pass through you are entering a place of mercy.

Suggested Ritual to Bless our Doors

Prepare: A bowl of water and a branch with which to sprinkle the doorway. All gather in front of the closed door and pray:

First Reading: Why do we use the symbol of the door? Jesus says: “*I am the door. If anyone enters by me (they) will be saved.*” (Jn. 10:9) Because we need ongoing conversion, we pray whoever passes through the door may recognize and “...experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.” When we cross this door, let us remember God’s infinite mercy and compassion and be ready to show mercy and kindness to others.

Second Reading: Merciful and compassionate God, as women consecrated to you and members of your holy Church, we believe mercy is the foundation of our lives. We pray that in all our

activities and interactions, we show your tenderness. May we be witnesses of merciful and compassionate love to all.

All: Amen

Third Reading: We dedicate this door as a particular symbol of your unconditional gift of love and mercy. We pray that all who cross its threshold be filled with a sense of forgiveness and be drawn to show compassion to all, most especially for those who are poor and afflicted.

All: Amen

Door is opened and each person walks through the threshold blessing the door with Holy Water.

As each person passes through the door, the leader will call out her name and we respond:

All: Be merciful just as our God is merciful!

Leader: May God bless us and make us merciful to one another. In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen