

Heart ♥ to ♥ Heart



Vol. 10, No. 6

September 2025

*As we make our journey through this calendar year, our Church continues its celebration of the Holy Year of 2025. The Year of Jubilee is a biblical concept deeply rooted in Scripture and Tradition, offering us a time of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home to God. A Jubilee Year is traditionally proclaimed by the Church every twenty-five years. Pope Francis called this Jubilee 2025, with its theme of **Pilgrims of Hope**, as an invitation to us to celebrate hope and to deepen our faith. This Holy Year also holds a special significance for those of us who are part of the Ursuline family. For it was 500 years ago that St. Angela made a pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate with her sister and brother pilgrims the Holy Year of 1525.*



The Holy Door



The Holy Door is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee Year, representing Jesus as the door to salvation and God's mercy. The opening of the door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome by the Pope marks the official beginning of the Holy Year, and its closure brings the Holy Year to an end.

The current Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica was carved in 1948 by Vico Consorti. He was chosen after the Catholic Church started a competition to design and repair the older wooden doors for the 1950 Holy Year. It depicts sixteen biblical scenes focusing on stories of mercy and forgiveness. These scenes were carved in wood, but eventually replaced with bronze, creating a more durable design that can be seen today.

Throughout the Holy Year, pilgrims pass through the door as an expression of their desire for and commitment to conversion and renewal in hope. In the words of Pope Francis at the opening of the door for this Holy Year, "Crossing the Holy Door is not a magical act – no, it is not; it is a symbol, a Christian symbol. Jesus Himself says, 'I am the door' (Jn 10:7). It is a sign that expresses the desire to start over, and this is a beautiful wisdom – to start over, to begin again every day. Always take a step forward. The desire to renew oneself, and to let oneself be found by God."

“Open Wide the Doors”

Using this image of the Holy Door in this Holy Year, we share with you a poetic reflection by Joseph Veneroso, MM, which appeared in the spring issue of the Maryknoll Magazine. What “doors of grace, faith, peace, truth, and hope” are you being invited to open wide in this Holy Year of 2025? How might you open those doors?

Open wide the doors of grace
Let every saint and sinner in.
Welcome every tribe and race
To help each person seek the face
Of God who ever dwells therein.

Open wide the doors of faith
To all who wander in the dark
Where guided by a heavenly spark
They may find courage for the fight
That conquers even death’s dread night.

Open wide the doors of peace
Where violence and war prevail
Though mercy and forgiveness fail
May all thoughts of vengeance cease
God’s reign on earth at last to hail.

Open wide the doors of truth
Free all those bound by clever lies:
The aged, the grown, the child, the youth
And may true freedom be the prize
Full human life to realize.

Open wide the doors of hope,
Come all burdened with despair.
Fear not to light a candle where
Darkness deepens all the more
Walk bravely through the open door!

(Reprinted from Maryknoll Magazine Spring 2025)

