Ceremony of the

Closing the Jubilee Door of Mercy

(Adapted from the ceremony used to close the Jubilee Door of Mercy at the Sacred Heart Cathedral)

**Procession to the Door of Mercy**

Presider: Let us move to the door of mercy

*As the hymn is sung the presider and server with holy water move to the door that will become the ‘Door of Mercy’ (this door is open).*

**Processional Hymn:**

*Suggested Hymn only, any other appropriate Hymn can be used*

**Send Down the Fire**

Refrain:

Send down the fire of your justice,
Send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit, breathe life in your people,
and we shall be people of God.

Call us to be your compassion,
Teach us the song of your love;
Give us hearts that sing,
Give us deeds that ring,
Make us ring with the song of your love. (Refrain)

**Ceremony of Closing the Jubilee Door of Mercy**

INTRODUCTION

Presider or reader: *in these or similar words*

A holy door has been used since the fifteenth century as a ritual expression of conversion.

Pilgrims and penitents pass through it as a gesture of leaving the past behind and crossing the threshold from sin to grace,

from slavery to freedom, and from darkness to light.

Often these rituals are associated with prayer, pilgrimage,

sacrifice, confession, and indulge in God’s mercy.

A holy door finds meaning

only when the believer associates the door with Christ.

Jesus is the Door!

In the words of Pope Francis,

“There is only one way that opens wide the entrance

into the life of communion with God:

this is Jesus, the one and absolute way to salvation.

To him alone can the words of the Psalmist be applied in full truth:

‘This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter’ (Ps 118:20).”

So, today, we gather to seal this Holy.

Let it be a reminder to all who pass through it

 in the Year of Jubilee

that Jesus is the way to salvation.

Let it serve as a symbol of God’s everlasting mercy

and his constant invitation to us to return home to him.

May the doors of our hearts be wide open to his call.

And may the doors of all our parishes, and every aspect of our diocesan life be open to all who seek the living God.

**BLESSING**

Presider: Let us pray:

With hands outstretched

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of Mercy.

You showed great love to sinful Adam and Eve

and promised them a New Adam who would redeem them from their sins.

You led the Chosen People out of the bonds of slavery

and forgave them even when they sinned against you.

You repeatedly sent prophets to guide your people in the path of your truth.

You sent your Only Begotten Son who

showed mercy to tax collectors and sinners,

converted the Samaritan woman,

and forgave the repentant thief.

Christ is the Door to our salvation,

the Sheep Gate to your wandering flock,

the Key to the Kingdom,

and the Door to Eternal Peace.

Bless this door which we consecrate to this time of Jubilee.

The door is sprinkled with holy water

Here, may we enter your presence as humble worshipers.

From here, may we go forth as instruments of reconciliation

to a troubled world.

Grant that through your sacraments, especially Reconciliation,

we may be freed from our sins,

and, like the Prodigal Son, come home to you, merciful Father,

and to your loving embrace.

We ask this through that same Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God forever and ever. Amen.

**JUBILEE SEAL**

*The celebrant closes the door and (or other ministers) places the Jubilee cross (if the parish has a Jubilee Cross) against the door as the hymn continues.*

*Presider and servers then return to front, reverence and leave in procession followed by the assembly.*

*(It is suggested that the insignia of the Papal Tiara and Keys be placed above the door as a way to remember the connection between these doors and the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica an image is attached that can be reproduced)*

**FINAL HYMN**

Suggested hymn only, any other suitable hymn can be used.

Call us to learn of your mercy,
Teach us the way of your peace;
Give us hearts that feel,
Give us hands that heal,
Make us walk in the way of your peace. **(Refrain)**

Call us to answer oppression,
Teach us the fire of your truth;
Give us righteous souls,
'til your justice rolls,
make us burn with the fire of your truth. **(Refrain)**

Call us to witness your Kingdom,
Give us the presence of Christ;
May your holy light
Keep us shining bright,
Ever shine with the presence of Christ. **(Refrain)**

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