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"My power is made perfect in weakness"
- Jesus

Friday, August 12, 2016

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This November 20th Pope Francis will close the Jubilee Doors on the right side of the portico at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. One week before that, November 13th, the "holy doors" in the specially designated churches throughout the world – including our Cathedral's – will ceremoniously be closed. The graces of this Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy continue to pour out from the heart of Jesus. Of course we know his heart is never closed to us, for God never tires of giving and forgiving. Yet how are we to understand the apparent paradox of closing the very doors that symbolize God's eternal mercy? The answer is simple. It is time for us now *to be God's mercy for others* – the mercy we ourselves have received from God.

To give mercy one must first receive mercy. So this Holy Year is a time to experience God's mercy like never before. Last April 4th, Divine Mercy Sunday, many of you accepted my invitation to join with me as I consecrated our Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mary's "yes" to be the Mother of Jesus our Savior was the Dawn of Mercy. Through her heart flows the Divine Mercy. What better way to conclude this Year of Mercy than to give God permission to make our hearts "doors of mercy," consecrating them to the Divine Mercy himself? We, like Mary, then become witnesses to the power of God's mercy flowing through us - *living* doors of mercy. Let's do this together so that the doors of mercy will never close!

Father Michael E. Gaitley MIC will be with us once again at the **Cathedral on Tuesday, September 6th, at 6:00 P.M.**, to help us prepare for the diocesan Consecration to the Divine Mercy on November 13th. He will also visit three other venues in the Diocese, details of which are at the diocesan website: rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration. The format of the speaking events, which are free and open to the public, will include Mass, a talk by Father Gaitley, a reception, and a signing of the book, *33 Days to Merciful Love*.

Our diocesan-wide 33-day preparation begins Tuesday, October 11, 2016, Feast of Pope St. John XXIII, culminating with the **Divine Mercy Consecration at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 5 p.m.** The Consecration could also be made on a parish level at any or all Masses in your local parish on that day. For information on how to access *33 Days to Merciful Love* and other resources, please go to our website (above) or call Renée, Coordinator for Parish Services, at (518) 453-6609.

This Monday, August 15th, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Assumption of Mary, it will be my special Mass intention that God will touch your heart where you most need the healing power of the Divine Mercy right now. Please pray for me, too.

Lovingly,

+Edward B. Scharfberger

Bishop Ed