

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC ORDINARIES OF THE HOLY LAND
Latins, Melkites, Maronites, Syrians, Armenians, Chaldeans, Custody of the Holy Land

Re.: 041/15

Jerusalem, 25th November 2015

Door of Mercy

Dear Tour Operators
Diocesan Offices or Agencies for Pilgrimages,

On December 8, 2015, Pope Francis will inaugurate the **Jubilee Year of Mercy** in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican. Bishops around the world have designated, special sanctuaries, shrines and churches and prepared pastoral programs for the celebration of this extraordinary event for their faithful.

The Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land are doing the same for our faithful and pilgrims visiting the holy places during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The Episcopal Commission for Pilgrimages invites both the local faithful and pilgrims to:

➤ **attend the ceremony of opening Door of Mercy in...**

• Jerusalem	Basilica of Gethsemane	13 December 2015	4:00 pm
• Haifa	Melkite Cathedral	13 December 2015	
• Haifa	Maronite Cathedral	13 December 2015	
• Amman	Melkite Cathedral	13 December 2015	
• Nicosia	Maronite Cathedral	13 December 2015	
• Bethlehem	St Catherine's Church	24 December 2015	11:15 pm
• Nazareth	Basilica of Annunciation	27 December 2015	10:00 am

➤ **visit** during this Jubilee Year, **the holy places** as a “sign of a deep desire for true conversion” and penance for all our sins against peace, justice and reconciliation especially in the Middle East. **Passing through the Door of Mercy** opened in Gethsemane, Bethlehem and Nazareth in order to obtain the plenary indulgence (visit, confession, communion, profession of faith and prayer for intentions of the Holy Father), a rite with significance and a public commitment to build a better world.

➤ **practice corporal and spiritual works of mercy, by ...**

- participating in the Sunday Mass with a parish, especially those who are more isolated and far away from the city: This is “*communion of faith*”;
- taking the time to visit with the elderly and sick people, handicapped or refugees, hosted by religious Institutions: This is “*proximity of love*”.

The Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land make this appeal to you, that you kindly consider to include and add this initiative in your pilgrimage programs. We wish you all *pax et bonum*.

Pietro Felet scj
Secretary general ACOHL
Secretary of Episcopal commission for pilgrimages