

## Resources for the Jubilee of Families

The Jubilee of Families, which is one of the events of the year-long Jubilee of Mercy, will take place on Sunday, December 27, 2015, the Feast of the Holy Family.

**“Christian families make the threshold of their homes a great sign of the Door of mercy and welcome of God.”**

—Pope Francis, Audience, November 18, 2015

### Resources from the Vatican

The Pontifical Council for the Family has prepared “Going Through the Holy Door,” a brief resource guide for families to use together when they enter through the Holy Door in their diocese: <http://bit.ly/1MyuLnC>. The resource



includes quotes from Pope Francis’s *Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* for families to reflect on. It provides an opportunity for family members to express their gratitude for each other, it invites family members to offer and seek forgiveness from each other, and it concludes with a family commitment to serve the poor.

The text is available as a PDF in English (<http://bit.ly/1O4Y3hq>) and in Spanish (<http://bit.ly/1I4d7K2>). This ritual can be used by families or other groups at any point during the Jubilee of Mercy.

### Resources from the USCCB

Here is a list of suggested activities for families to do together on the Jubilee of Families, December 27, in addition to or instead of visiting the Holy Door in their local diocese.

**“Since we all make mistakes, that other word which is a bit hard to say [in the family] but which needs to be said [is]: *sorry*.”**

—Pope Francis, Audience, April 2, 2014

- Go to confession as a family. (Visit the “Rediscovering the Sacrament of Penance” web page of the USCCB at <http://bit.ly/1CgJlpj> for resources on preparing for and understanding the Sacrament of Penance.)
- Pray together one of the great penitential psalms, such as Psalm 51 or Psalm 143. Listen to audio of these psalms, along with reflections, on the USCCB website at <http://bit.ly/17gBsKN>.
- Learn together about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Discuss as a family which works of mercy are the most difficult, the most appealing, etc. Decide as a family on one work of mercy to try to do together during the Jubilee of Mercy.
- Set aside a time for each family member to seek and receive forgiveness from another family member(s). Pope Francis calls the word “I’m sorry” one of the three “magic words” in a family’s life, along with “thank you” and “may I” (Audience, April, 2, 2014).
- Often relationships in the family are in need of reconciliation. Spend time in prayer for a relationship that needs forgiveness and healing, asking the Holy Spirit for insight on how best to reconcile with that person.
- Read together “Forgiveness: Healing the Hurts in Marriage,” an article about forgiveness in the family from the For Your Marriage website (available at <http://bit.ly/1OrxX2o>), and discuss what you learned from it.