



# PILGRIMS OF HOPE

## WITH MARY AND ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT



### Fourth handout Crossing the threshold ...

#### KNOW

The Holy Year of 2025 is itself in continuity with preceding celebrations of grace. In the last Ordinary Jubilee, we **crossed the threshold** of two millennia from the birth of Jesus Christ. Then, on 13 March 2015, I proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee for the sake of making known and encouraging an encounter with the “merciful face of God”, the core message of the Gospel for every man and woman of every time and place. Now the time has come for a new Jubilee, when **once more the Holy Door will be flung open** to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ. The Holy Year will also guide our steps towards yet another fundamental celebration for all Christians: 2033 will mark the two thousandth anniversary of the redemption won by the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. We are about to make a pilgrimage marked by great events, in which the grace of God **precedes and accompanies** his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope (cf. *1 Thess 1:3*).

(FRANCIS, *Spes non confundit*, 6)

## LISTEN TO THE WORD



### Listen to the Word of the Lord From the Gospel of John (10:7-11)

Therefore, Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, **I am the gate** for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. **I am the gate**; whoever enters **through** me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”.

## ENTER THE WORD

From a symbolic point of view, the Holy Door takes on a particular meaning: **it is the most characteristic sign**, because the goal is to be able to cross it. Its opening by the Pope constitutes the official beginning of the Holy Year... In crossing this threshold, the pilgrim remembers the text of chapter 10 of the Gospel according to John: “**I am the gate**: whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture”. The gesture expresses **the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus**, who is the Good Shepherd. After all, the door is also a passage that leads into a church. For the Christian community, it is not only a sacred space, which must be approached with respect, with appropriate behavior and clothing, but it is a sign of the communion that binds every believer to Christ: it is the place of meeting and dialogue, of reconciliation and peace that awaits the visit of every pilgrim, the space of the Church as community of the faithful.

## RESPOND TO THE WORD

From Psalm 118:19-24

Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord  
through which the righteous may enter.

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected  
Has become the cornerstone.

The Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

The Lord has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad!

## BE CHALLENGED BY THE WORD

- The crossing of the Holy Door is at the end of a pilgrimage: what does it mean to me?
- To pass through a door means to make a decision: what is it for me?
- Who would I like to walk through the door with?



## PRAY THE WORD

O God, our Father, who sent your Son, gate of our salvation, instill in us the wisdom of the Spirit, so that we know how to recognize the voice of Christ, the good shepherd, who gives us life in abundance. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

## BE ACCOMPANIED BY MONTFORT

### *Hymn 7, 14-17: The solidity of Hope*

We drop anchor in a storm  
So as not to founder;  
The wise man's anchor am I  
In the midst of direst peril.

With me all grows easy;  
You are happy, you are joyful,  
You are an eagle, you are  
agile, You have wings to fly.

Through me man exchanges his  
strength  
For that of the Almighty;  
He breaks out from himself,  
And thus becomes alive.

All the martyrs in my presence  
Laughed in their grimmest  
anguish;  
For I showed them their reward,  
And they toppled every tyrant.