



**Pastoral letter  
for the  
Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy**

"Mercy is not only a medicine for the sick, but a tonic for the healthy.' This saying, overheard during an exchange at the Synod on the Family last October, helped me understand that we all need mercy, both as a gift from God and as a virtue to be practiced every day.

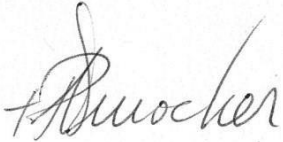
The extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy announced by Pope Francis last April 11 was inaugurated in our diocese with the opening of a Door of Mercy in St. Joseph's Cathedral on the second Sunday of Advent last. Simultaneously, we launched a "Way of Mercy" in the cathedral, thirteen stations that propose Bible verses to facilitate meditation and prayer on this theme. We will soon publish a bookmark of the posters that adorn our Door of Mercy, as well as a meditation booklet on the Way of Mercy.

Going through a door allow us to move from one space to another. Symbolically, in this Holy Year, walking through the Door of Mercy affords us the opportunity to renew our desire to move from a life without mercy to a life where mercy is received and offered. All Christian communities should be places where God's mercy is celebrated, where mercy becomes a dynamic source of welcome and support for the small and poor ones among us.

Do we want to revitalize our parish life? Let us focus our concerns and our commitments on the poor, and our parishes will be transformed. The Jubilee of Mercy presents us with the occasion to do so.

Now that the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas are over, as we prepare to enter into Lent, let us seize this Holy Year, given to us by Pope Francis, as a moment of grace and commitment.

After Easter Sunday, with the return of good weather, we shall begin to receive groups at the cathedral who want to engage in an experience of pilgrimage, prayer and commitment. I hope to see you there to live with you this "year of favour".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Durocher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

† Paul-André Durocher  
Archbishop of Gatineau

On this 25th day of January, 2016, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul