



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

September 15, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

In my letter to you in July I mentioned that a Jubilee Year would begin this month in the Archdiocese commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of Mission San Gabriel, marking the beginning of the Catholic Church in our area. Before Los Angeles was even a city, the Catholic Church was present. The oldest church in Los Angeles, Our Lady Queen of Angels, affectionately known as “La Placita,” founded in 1784, was originally a mission of Mission San Gabriel. This Jubilee Year began the same weekend we had our own celebration of “Welcome Forward.”

You can be a part of this Jubilee Year by making a pilgrimage to one of the pilgrimage sites. If you really would like to go to our roots, go to Mission San Gabriel itself. The Archdiocese is divided up into 5 regions with 4 deaneries in each region. If you don’t want to journey as far, there are two pilgrimage sites in our deanery: St. Joseph Church, Hawthorne, and St. Catherine of Alexandria, Avalon.

A Holy Door represents Jesus Christ, who states: “*I am the door*” (John 10:1). Christ is the entry to new life. To cross the threshold of the Holy Door is to step into Christ, and to pass through the doors of the Church into the world is to step into mission. The Lord we encounter in the Church, above all in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, sends us forth from there to be missionaries of the Gospel. During the Jubilee Year, a plenary indulgence will be granted to all the faithful who meet the usual conditions and visit any of the pilgrimage sites within the Archdiocese to spend some time there at least to pray the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*, and *Glory Be* with the intention of uniting themselves with the missionary spirit of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, and St. Junipero Serra, founder of Mission San Gabriel Archangel.

Prayer resources to help you in these prayers are available on the website for this Jubilee Year, www.forwardinmission.com. Feel free to download them.

May this Jubilee Year before for you a special occasion of growth in your faith.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor