



## Giáo Xứ Việt Nam Đức Mẹ La Vang Our Lady of La Vang Parish

*Văn Phòng Linh Mục Chánh Xứ - Office of the Pastor*



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Dear parishioners and friends:

In recent weeks, many people have asked me which churches in our diocese have been chosen by the diocesan bishop to open a Holy Door during the Jubilee Year 2025. The answer is that none of them, not even the cathedral, will have a Holy Door. If certain dioceses in the U.S. or back home select local churches to open a Holy Door for the spiritual benefit of the faithful, then perhaps the Ordinary may have pastoral explanations for their decision. However, according to Vatican News, the Section for Fundamental Issues of Evangelization in the World under the Dicastery for Evangelization provided clear explanations in a communiqué dated August 1, 2024, regarding the opening of Holy Doors at cathedrals, shrines, and other places of worship for the Jubilee Year 2025. This section reiterated that only the four Major Papal Basilicas in Rome will open Holy Doors.

The document explicitly states that while it understands the pastoral and devotional reasons behind the desire to arrange and open Holy Doors at cathedrals, international and national shrines, and other significant places of worship, the Dicastery for Evangelization must adhere to the clear guidelines established by the Holy Father in the Apostolic Letter *Spes non confundit*. This document, which declared the Jubilee Year 2025, specifies that Holy Doors are only those at the four Major Papal Basilicas: St. Peter's Basilica, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. In addition to these, there is one exceptional Holy Door located at a prison in Rome—a place that, due to the physical impossibility of crossing its threshold, strongly symbolizes the need for freedom and serves as a concrete sign of closeness to prisoners.

The document also emphasizes that the defining symbol of the Jubilee Year is always the plenary indulgence, which expresses the infinite mercy of God through the sacrament of reconciliation and acts of charity and hope. While this is the Holy Father's directive, crossing the Holy Door remains a deeply spiritual aspiration for many faithful, especially those unable to make a pilgrimage to Rome during this year. So, what is the Holy Door, and what is the significance of crossing it?

The Holy Door is a symbol of a sacred time. It represents a gateway to a new life, where the faithful recognize that they are living in God's grace and mercy. The Jubilee Year 2025, centered on the theme of hope, emphasizes crossing the Holy Door as a symbolic act of faith and trust in a brighter future, with God as the source of all hope.

At Our Lady of La Vang Catholic Church, there will not be a Holy Door. However, a symbolic gate (without a door) will be erected during the Jubilee Year. Those who walk through it during this sacred year will embrace the meanings described above. Wishing you and your family a Jubilee Year full of God's abundant grace.

Wishing you and your family a happy, joyful, and peaceful Tết!  
And Happy Lunar New Year.

**Fr. Justin T. Le**  
Pastor