A Holy Year of Mercy Pilgrimage
To EWTN and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Irondale and Hanceville, Alabama
May 31st – June 3rd 2016

It’s been six years since our last parish pilgrimage to EWTN and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and this year is a perfect year for a pilgrimage celebrating the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis! At EWTN we’ll be attending a televised Mass, spending time with Christ in Eucharistic adoration, going to confession, attending a healing service, praying the rosary and divine office with the friars, receiving catechesis and attending a live television show, “EWTN Live with Father Mitch Pacwa.”

At the Shrine we’ll have another opportunity to go to confession and participate in tours of the Shrine and the John Paul II Eucharistic Center. We’ll pray the rosary and Angelus with the nuns and attend Mass in the Lower Church. Then we’ll head over to Cullman for a guided tour of the Ave Maria Grotto to view 125 miniature reproductions of famous historic and shrines from around the world.

This trip is for ages 12 and up (however, there are no discounts for children). Cost will be about $354.79 per person, based on double occupancy, or $286.64 per person (quadruple occupancy). This amount is not fixed until we know the exact number of people who are coming, so it could go a little higher or lower depending on participation (this is due to the bus cost being fixed, so the more who participate the less cost per individual and vice-versa). This includes all costs (hotel, meals, tours, transportation) except for one meal going there (dinner) and one meal going back (lunch).

Paperwork and non-refundable down payment of $130 per person is due on April 22nd. The balance of payment is due on May 6th.
Pilgrimage Itineraries

Tuesday, May 31st (travel day)
5:30 a.m. Check-in at St. Bartholomew parking lot
6:00 a.m. Depart for Alabama, Picnic Lunch and dinner at Golden Rule BBQ in Irondale (dinner not included in package)
8:00 p.m. Check into Holiday Inn Express in Irondale, AL (providing continental breakfast each day)

Wednesday, June 1st (EWTN)
6:00 a.m. Leave hotel for EWTN
6:15 a.m. Seat for Mass
7:00 a.m. Mass
8:00 a.m. Leave for hotel for breakfast
9:00 a.m. Leave for EWTN
9:30 a.m. Catechesis
10:30 a.m. Free time: Adoration/Gift Shop
11:00 a.m. Confessions
12:00 p.m. Catered Lunch
1:30 p.m. Healing Service
2:45 p.m. EWTN tour
3:45 p.m. Free Time: Adoration/Gift Shop
4:30 p.m. Rosary with the Friars
5:00 p.m. Divine Office & Benediction
5:20 p.m. Catered Dinner
6:20 p.m. Seating for EWTN Live
7:00 p.m. EWTN Live with Father Mitch Pacwa
9:00-9:30 Return to hotel

Thursday, June 2nd (Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Ave Maria Grotto)
Eat breakfast at hotel (at your time)
7:00 a.m. Leave hotel for Shrine
8:00 a.m. Free time: Gift Shop/Confessions
9:00 a.m. John Paul II Eucharistic Center/Shrine Tour (1/2 in each tour)
10:00 a.m. John Paul II Eucharistic Center/Shrine Tour (1/2 in each tour)
11:40 a.m. Rosary/Angelus with the nuns
12:00 p.m. Mass in Lower Church
1:00 p.m. Leave for Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman
1:30 p.m. Hot lunch at Ave Maria Grotto
3:00 p.m. Guided Tour of Ave Maria Grotto
5:00 p.m. Leave Grotto
5:30 p.m. Dinner at Ryan’s in Cullman

Friday, June 3rd (travel day)
7:00 a.m. Depart for Katy
Lunch at restaurant along the way (this meal is not included in the package)
Arrive in Katy around supper time
A Special Grace: The Holy Door of Mercy at the Shrine

About the Holy Door Indulgence for the Year of Mercy

Indulgences are the remission before God, and by His grace, of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. The faithful Christian who is duly disposed – i.e., loves God, detests sin, places trust in the merits of Christ – gains the indulgence under prescribed conditions for either himself or the departed.

An indulgence is either plenary or partial, that is, it frees a person either from all or from some of the temporal punishment due to sins. To receive a plenary indulgence, it is required that all attachment to sin be absent from the person’s will. If one is unable to receive a plenary indulgence then he or she still receives a partial indulgence in proportion to his or her contrition of heart.

Requirements for the Holy Door Indulgence:
1. Pass through the Jubilee Holy Door
2. Make a profession of faith (Nicene or Apostle’s Creed)
3. Make a short reflection on mercy
4. Sacramental confession, reception of the Holy Eucharist, and prayer for Pope’s intentions*

* Sacramental confession may be made several days before or after. A single confession suffices for gaining several plenary indulgences, but Holy Communion must be received and prayers for the Pope’s intentions recited for the gaining of each plenary indulgence. The condition of praying for the Pope’s intentions is fully satisfied by reciting one “Our Father” and one “Hail Mary.” A plenary indulgence may be gained only once each day.