



...A DOOR THAT NEVER CLOSES!

by Bro MARIANO DI VITO OFM Cap.

Ten thousand doors were opened and closed in the Christian world and nine hundred million faithful entered them, whether the doors of cathedrals, prisons, or even soup kitchens of Caritas. These are impressive numbers.

So a mission fulfilled? To this provocative question from a journalist, Monsignor Fisichella answered: "the mission continues." Yes, that is, I believe, the way forward. We can leave to others all the statistics and analysis of the results whether the Jubilee year just ended was a success or not. The worst road we could take would be to consider the Jubilee year over, to archive everything and then proceed as before! The best way forward and most needed can be summed up, in my opinion, with the words of the Evangelist Luke said of the Mother of Jesus after the losing and then finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem: "And His mother kept all these things in her heart" (cf. Luke 2, 51).

To "keep" and "heart" are two

words that indicate what we should do to make those many seeds of the Jubilee sown on the paths of the world, bear fruit. And they sum up too, that always proper veneration we should have before God's wonders, those marvels that the Lord never ceases to make happen, even in the most complex and confused times of history.

Our Lady, the exemplary model to the whole Church and to all Christians, shows us how we should gratefully receive, never forget and never become indifferent to the many wonders that the Lord never ceases to demonstrate to us in the course of our lives. To "keep" means that we should return and listen continuously to His Word and ponder upon all those deeds, persons and places that testify to God's passage. In the "heart" means the desire to confront and see with affection, with fervour, and... mercy, all the things, persons, circumstances and divergences, because this is God's way with us, who relates with us and

sees us through the open and wounded heart of His Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Is it possible to close and archive in the chronicles of a single year this limitless Christian treasure?

Absolutely not! The Jubilee year gave us the chance to begin that 'work' that must become the theme of our entire Christian life: to contemplate with gratitude and wonder the heavenly Father's limitless mercy and to practise mercy in the always more complex and arduous roads of life.

The happy tidings of the Gospel tell us that the door is never closed and exhort us to open our own closed and oftentimes barred hearts. These are my wishes for you at the beginning of this new year. May Padre Pio who found the "Holy Door" to his sanctification in the open heart wound of Jesus, "a door that never closes," assist us!

Fr. Mariano Di Vito
(FR. MARIANO DI VITO)
OFM CAP.