

THE PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

Father in heaven,
 may the *faith* you have gifted us in
 your Son Jesus Christ, our brother,
 and the flame of *charity*
 kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
 reawaken in us, the blessed *hope*
 for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into
 diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds
 that make humanity and the cosmos rise
 unto the confident expectation
 of the new heavens and the new earth,
 when with the powers of Evil overcome,
 your glory shall be manifested eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
 reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
 the yearning for heavenly treasures
 and pour over all the earth
 the joy and peace of our Redeemer.
 To you God blessed in eternity,
 be praise and glory for ever and ever.
 Amen.




A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis will inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Hope at the Vatican. Diocesan Bishops around the world will follow on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Jubilee Year will officially conclude on January 6, 2026.

How providential that we are called to celebrate this year and to ponder the virtue of hope. In a world torn by war, and evil deeds, we need hope. In a country divided by political strife and facing the uncertainty of a new administration, we seek hope. In personal struggles with illness or family relationships, we look for signs of hope.

May we be inspired to offer that hope to others – in the liturgies we prepare, in the prayers we silently offer, and in the works of charity we humbly perform.

In this blessed Christmas season, may our certain faith in the Incarnation be a constant reminder that hope abides.

Rita Thiron

ABOUT THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis released a Papal Bull of Indiction which formally announced the Jubilee Year of Hope. The document was entitled *Spes non confundit* --“Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). In it, Pope Francis writes on the reasons for this theme for the Jubilee Year:

In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years.... For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. *Jn 10:7.9*) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (*1 Tim 1:1*).

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. ... (1).

IMPORTANT VATICAN DATES

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|-------------------|--|
| December 24, 2024 | (Christmas Eve) Pope Francis will open the Holy Door at the Basilica of St Peter. thus inaugurating the Ordinary Jubilee. |
| December 29, 2024 | (Feast of the Holy Family) Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of his cathedral, Saint John Lateran, which on November 9, 2024 celebrated the 1700 th anniversary of its dedication. |
| January 1, 2025 | (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major. |
| January 5, 2025 | (Epiphany) The Holy Father will open the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. These last three Holy Doors will be closed on Sunday, December 28, 2025. |
| January 6, 2026 | The Ordinary Jubilee will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. |

DIOCESAN DATES

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 2024 | A Year of Prayer, in preparation for the Jubilee Year |
| December 29, 2024 | (Feast of the Holy Family) Diocesan Bishops around the world are to celebrate Holy Mass at their cathedral (and co-cathedral) as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year in their own diocese. A special rite has already been sent to all the Bishops [and their diocesan Offices of Worship]; it includes processing with a Cross, from a suitable place to the cathedral. The cross will reside in the cathedral for a full year. This rite is for the cathedral only. Please note that a “holy door” is not envisioned. |

December 30, ff. A diocesan “pilgrimage that sets out from a church chosen for the *collectio* and then proceeds to the cathedral can serve to symbolize the journey of hope that, illumined by the word of God, unites all the faithful. In the course of this pilgrimage, passages from the present document can be read, along with the announcement of the Jubilee Indulgence to be gained in accordance with the prescriptions” (*Spes non confundit*, 6).

December 28, 2025 The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches. In the course of the year, every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God’s grace and in the signs that attest to its efficacy.

“During the Holy Year, may the light of Christian hope illumine every man and woman, as a message of God’s love addressed to all! And may the Church bear faithful witness to this message in every part of the world!” (*Spes non confundit*, 6).

ABOUT THE LOGO FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR



The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need. There are the rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life’s pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That’s why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. In maritime jargon the ‘anchor of hope’ refers to the reserve anchor used by vessels involved in emergency maneuvers to stabilize the ship during storms. It is worth noting that the image illustrates the pilgrim’s journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is by no means static, but it is also dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Pilgrims of Hope*, represented in green letters.

HELPFUL LINKS

Vatican Website <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

USCCB Website: <https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025>

Full text of the Papal Bull : https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

Hymn for the Jubilee Year – text and music <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/search.html?q=hymn>

2025 - CALENDAR OF SPECIAL JUBILEE EVENTS

*The following Jubilee observances have been announced by the Vatican.
You may find these helpful as you plan your own diocesan observances in harmony with the Holy See.*

JUBILEE OF THE ...

Jan 24-26	World of Communications	
Feb 8-9	Armed Forces, Police, Security Personnel	
Feb 16-18	Artists	
Feb 21-23	Deacons	
Mar 8-9	World of Volunteers	
Mar 23-24	Twenty-four Hours for the Lord	
Mar 28-30	Missionaries of Mercy	
Apr 5-6	Sick and Health Care Workers	
Apr 25-27	Teenagers (Youth)	
Apr 28-30	Persons with Disabilities	
May 1-4	Workers	
May 4-5	Entrepreneurs	
May 10-11	Musical Bands	
May 16-18	Confraternities	
May 24-25	Children	
May 30-Jun 1	Families, Grandparents, Elderly	
Jun 7-8	Ecclesial Movements, Associations, New Communities	
Jun 9	Holy See	
Jun 14-15	Sports	
Jun 20-22	Governments	
Jun 23-24	Seminarians	
Jun 25	Bishops	
Jun 26-27	Priests	
Jun 28	Eastern Churches	
July 28-Aug 3	Young Adults and Young People	<i>[USCCB endorsed Pilgrimage to Rome]</i>
Sept 15	Consolation	
Sept 20	Justice	<i>[USCCB endorsed Pilgrimage to Rome]</i>
Sept 26-28	Catechists	<i>[USCCB endorsed Pilgrimage to Rome]</i>
Oct 5	Migrants	
Oct 8-9	Consecrated Life	
Oct 11-12	Marian Spirituality	
Oct 18-19	Missions	
Oct 30 – Nov 2	World of Education	
Nov 16	The Poor	
Nov 21-23	Choirs	
Dec 14	Prisoners	
Dec 28	Closing of the [Diocesan Festivities and] Doors around the World	
Jan 6, 2026	Closing of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica	



UPDATE ON THE LITURGICAL TEXTS

Prepared by the FDLC in collaboration with the Secretariat for Divine Worship

APPROVED TEXTS

Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass (HCWEMOM)

- The mandatory-use date was December 1, 2024.
- A Spanish translation of Chapter II, “Administration of Communion and Viaticum to the Sick by an Extraordinary Minister,” is forthcoming. Spanish translations of the other chapters of HCWEMOM are not currently anticipated.
- At this time, an update to the *Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist* will not take place since so much of its material is drawn from the *Liturgy of the Hours*.
- Several of the published editions include music for hymns and other texts.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Ritual de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos (RICA)

- The first-use date for both the English and Spanish editions was December 1, 2024. The mandatory-use date is March 5, 2025 (Ash Wednesday).
- The *National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults* have a single date of promulgation, December 1. Even though the current ritual text may be used until March 5, the Christian Initiation of adults has been governed by the revised National Statutes since December 1.
- Each published edition includes musical notation, especially for the Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Paschal Vigil.
- A *Compendium on the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, a resource of the Committees on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, Divine Worship, and Evangelization and Catechesis, is anticipated in 2025.

The Order of Religious Profession

- The text was approved by the Holy See and promulgated by the USCCB this year. The exclusive publisher is Midwest Theological Forum.
- The first-use date is upon publication, which is estimated in the first third of 2025, and the mandatory-use date is November 29, 2026.
- After publication, religious institutes will adapt the text and transmit these adaptations directly to the Holy See for approval.

Mass Texts Approved by USCCB and Confirmed by Holy See

- Saint Gregory of Narek – February 27
- Saint John De Avila – May 10
- Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus – July 29
- Saint Hildegard of Bingen – September 17
- Formularies may be found on the USCCB website.
- Spanish translations of these texts were reviewed at the September 2024 meeting of the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish.

LITURGICAL TEXTS PENDING APPROVAL

Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of Their Pastoral Care (ASPC)

- This text will replace *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*.
- While some rites of *Pastoral Care* may be used by the laity, the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care* only contains rites for the clergy.
- The Holy See has indicated that the USCCB will receive confirmation of this text this year.

- The USCCB also approved a collection of extracts in English and Spanish for the Church's ministry to the sick carried out by laypersons; these texts are still awaiting confirmation.

Order of Blessing of an Abbot or an Abbess and the Order of Consecration of Virgins

- The texts, approved by the USCCB in November 2023 and transmitted to the Holy See in January 2024, are awaiting confirmation.

OTHER TEXTS IN PROGRESS

Liturgy of the Hours

- The approval of texts of the LOH by the USCCB is complete.
- The assembly of the four volumes is taking place, and it is anticipated that these texts will be transmitted to the Holy See in early 2025.
- Publication is estimated in late 2026 or 2027.

Bendicional and Book of Blessings

- Spanish *Bendicional* sent to Rome and awaiting approval.
- Rome has proposed a new English version first.
- USCCB remains in dialogue with Rome about this new English edition.

Instituted Lay Ministries

- The most recent update about the current use of the rites of Institution was provided in the June 2022 *BCDW Newsletter*
- The USCCB has established a Task Force for a *National Directory for the Instituted Ministries*.
- Ritual texts for the Institution of Lector, Acolyte and Catechist will not be approved by the USCCB and transmitted to the Holy See until the National Directory is complete.

Bible Translation(s)

- The New American Bible (NAB) revised New Testament was approved by the Administrative Committee of the USCCB this September. In November 2024, the body of bishops approved this translation for liturgical use, as well as the revised NAB Old Testament and the *Abbey Psalms and Canticles*.
- These texts are in the process of being sent to the Holy See for approval as the liturgical Bible for the United States.

Lectionary for Mass

- Work has begun on a new edition of the Lectionary.
- ICEL transmitted the Green Book of the *Order of Readings for Mass* to its member Conferences in August 2024. This text includes the front matter and Introduction of the Lectionary, the non-biblical Gospel acclamations, the assorted rubrics, and the sequences.
- The BCDW approved the psalm responses of Volume I at its November meeting and will continue to review Lectionary translations at upcoming meetings.
- The Lectionary may go before the USCCB in June or November 2026.
- Following approval by the Holy See, it will likely be 18 to 24 months before publication and use in parishes.

Leccionario

- The Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish has approved the texts of the decrees, introduction, Lenten Gospel acclamations, Psalm responses and Gospel acclamations which are ecclesiastical compositions, and sequences. Further work on the *Leccionario* now awaits the completion and approval of the *Biblia de la Iglesia en América*.

THE BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON DIVINE WORSHIP

Administrative Committee, September 2024

- The Committee approved a new national shrine, the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Stony Point, New York.
- It also authorized a BCDW statement on the use of wine in liturgies in correctional institutions. This was printed in the *BCDW Newsletter* [see Volume LX, September 2024] and is available [online](#).

Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish

- The Subcommittee met in March and September 2024.
- The Subcommittee has approved Spanish translations for the *Misal Romano* and *Liturgia de las Horas* of several celebrations inscribed in the General Roman Calendar since 2014.
- The Subcommittee has approved the preparation of a US edition of the *Order of Penance* in Spanish; this is in its very early stages.

November 2024 Plenary Assembly

- Approval of the Liturgical Bible
- Approval of the ICEL Gray Book of *The Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- Approval of a Spanish version of the US Proper Texts for the *Liturgy of the Hours*

Chairman and Chairman-Elect of BCDW

- Bishop Lopes will remain Chair until November of 2025, but his successor was selected in November. The Chair-elect is Bishop Michael Woost, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland.
- Archbishop Leonard Blair has retired from his position as the delegate to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, and Bishop Lopes has been appointed as the new USCCB representative to ICEL.

DD/RT/December 2024



SAVE THE DATES

For the fifty-sixth annual national meeting

The Liturgy of the Hours

September 30 to October 2, 2025
Hilton Inner Harbor Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

Hosted by the good folks of Region Four

2024-2025 ANNUAL APPEAL

In all circumstances, give thanks (1 Th 5:18)

Dear FDLC Members and Friends,

This Federation was founded in 1969 during a momentous period in our Church's history. Those early years were marked by remarkable scholarship, legendary leadership, and bold change. The liturgical renewal continues to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. The wisdom of the Council Fathers continues to be championed by Popes and applauded by the faithful. The mission of this Federation continues to be the fulfillment of the Council's vision.

Yet again and still, the FDLC seeks to educate and enlighten, to train and teach. As members of diocesan liturgical commissions, as directors of offices of worship, as academics, and as parish leaders, we strive to promote sound liturgical praxis and to form competent liturgical ministers. Through our national meetings, webinars, publications, resources, seasonal planning aids, and consultations, FDLC serves you so that you may serve others.

The Federation is profoundly aware of the need to provide formation in creative ways and at reasonable costs. With your help, we continue to operate on a very tight budget while providing FREE online training and resources to countless ministers across the country.

Please consider a donation to the 2024-2025 FDLC Annual Appeal. Whether you choose to make FDLC one of your primary charitable contributions this year or if you can only share a portion of your financial gifts, we welcome your participation in our mission. You may easily donate online with your credit card or complete the paper pledge card below and return it to FDLC with your check. If your contribution is postmarked by December 31, it can be considered as a 2024 tax deduction.

Thank you in advance for your generous support. Certainly, in all the circumstances of our ministry and for all the many ways in which you serve the Church, we give thanks to God for you! May God continue to bless you!

Sincerely,

Dr. James Starke, Chair, Board of Directors

Mrs. Rita Thiron, Executive Director



ANNUAL APPEAL 2024-2025

In all circumstances, give thanks (1 Th 5:18)

I am grateful for the Federation's past and I support its future! I wish to pledge:

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