



Jubilee 2025: A Holy Year for Hope

By: Paul Jarzembowski

Associate Director for the Laity

Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty

to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

(Lk 4:18-19)
This biblical moment, when Jesus

boldly read from Isaiah 61:1-2, brings our attention to the 2025 Jubilee Holy Year, “a year acceptable to the Lord.” Every 25 years, the

Catholic Church pauses its routine to mark the traditional anniversary of the outpouring of God’s grace on the world through the Incarnation and Nativity of Christ. This is the 2,025th anniversary of that incredible manifestation.

Additionally, the roots of Jubilee stretch back even further when God commanded that a sacred year should be set aside (at that time, every 50 years) for reconciliation, forgiveness, social justice, and homecoming (see Lv 25:1-22, Dt 15:1-11).

For centuries, Catholics have commemorated Holy Years with a “homecoming” of sorts by making pilgrimage to Rome, the spiritual home of our faith community. Holy Doors in Rome’s major churches were established to mark the completion of the journey and a fresh start. In actively and intentionally reconciling, making pilgrimage (to Rome or



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a local holy site), doing works of mercy, and praying in solidarity with the Holy Father), we gain a blessing that transcends time and space: a reprieve of some suffering after death (which Catholics call an “indulgence” due to God being indulgent with his divine mercy).

Seeing increasing strife and anxiety around the world, Pope Francis declared that the 2025 Jubilee would be dedicated to hope. He said, “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” (*Spes Non Confundit*, no. 1).

To mark this occasion, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has assembled a collection of resources to guide the faithful, accessible at: <https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025>.

That webpage includes prayers, hymns, videos, news articles, pilgrimage tools for Rome (and local holy site) pilgrims, liturgical options, maps of U.S. pilgrim sites, and a month-to-month calendar filled with resource packets for various moments throughout the Holy Year. Most materials are available in English and Spanish.

For the 2025 Jubilee, Pope Francis marked the year with special celebrations of communities and ministerial areas

which point us toward hope. Artists, workers, priests, volunteers, young people, the elderly, athletes, missionaries, migrants, catechists, musicians, consecrated religious, families, and prisoners are just a few of these populations. On assigned days during the Holy Year (based on the [Jubilee calendar](#)), the Church lifts them up as both recipients and prisms of God’s light and mercy for the world.

Some may choose these designated moments to travel to Rome, but most will commemorate them at home. Because of that, local Catholic communities and ministries are encouraged to celebrate and honor them in their own way, so each person knows God’s love for them, and so the wider community remembers how much of a blessing they are to us. Ideas for local celebrations can be found within the resource packets available through the [Jubilee calendar](#)

page the USCCB website.

We are called to mark this sacred 2,025th anniversary year as a way to thank God for his bountiful mercy, made manifest by the incarnation and birth of Christ into humanity and which continues to be seen in the faces of one another. Enjoy this Jubilee journey!

“

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”

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CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTION

PILGRIMS OF HOPE: WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS THE KINGDOM OF GOD

By: Most Rev. Robert Brennan | Bishop of Brooklyn
| Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Cultural
Diversity in the Church

Years ago, a good friend taught me a chant of sorts that we would use when leading groups on pilgrimages. “We are on a pilgrimage, not a vacation. When we are on pilgrimage, we never complain about anything, because we are on a pilgrimage, not a vacation.” Repeating the chant and emphasizing certain words with the pilgrims provided a humorous way to set a tone.

Pilgrimages are rarely easy. They demand sacrifices, not just of time, but also of comfort. There’s a lot of walking, and at times, in difficult terrain. Weather does not always cooperate. And, let’s not forget the other pilgrims - who arrives to the bus late, who is in a rush, and who gets lost? Pilgrimages can test our patience!

At the same time, pilgrimages can be quite fulfilling, enjoyable, even fun. Generally, one meets good people from diverse backgrounds who share similar interests. One learns interesting things. Above all, one can encounter Jesus in a new way.

We recently began the Jubilee Year 2025, and Pope Francis has asked us to see ourselves as “Pilgrims of Hope.” You could say that life itself is a pilgrimage. We are all walking toward a holy destination – the Kingdom of God. The journey of life itself is part of the experience. We walk with one another, perhaps putting up with one another at times, but more importantly, walking in solidarity, and meeting Christ along the way.

As Pilgrims of Hope, the Holy Father asks us to listen attentively to one another, to learn from one another, to notice the needs and wounds of one another, and to lift or share the burdens of one another. That is a tall order, but isn’t that exactly



what the Lord has done for us through the incarnation and His passion, death, and resurrection? Jesus came to live among us, and now, risen from the dead, He walks with us still. He patiently listens, gently teaches, and carries our burdens with us. He opens our eyes to the needs of those around us, especially those on the margins. How often were the disciples ready to move along, but Jesus stopped to notice someone along the edge?

Many New Yorkers remember Pope Francis’ Voyage to our city as a Pilgrim of Hope, his visit an extension of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. At Madison Square Garden, he quoted the prophecy of Isaiah proclaimed each year at Midnight Mass: “The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.” (Is. 9:1-2). He then told us plainly that Jesus Christ walks in our streets.

This message can give us great hope and confidence as we walk this pilgrimage of life. Yes, there is much darkness, but the light shines through the darkness. Knowing that Jesus walks with us reassures us daily, allowing us to face our own needs while seeing the world – and one another – through His eyes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

PILGRIMS OF HOPE BEATING AT THE RHYTHM OF CHRIST'S HEART

By: Maria del Mar Muñoz-Visoso, M.T.S. | Executive Director,
Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, USCCB



In a prior column, I reflected on the Holy Father's call to become Pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee Year 2025. But with so much happening in the world — fires and other natural and human-made disasters and accidents, unending wars, political polarization, civil unrest and loss of confidence in our public institutions, egregious

violations of human life and dignity, and, more disturbingly, the lack of any sense of compassion or a true understanding of the common good on the part of some of our leaders and legislators— it is tempting to fall into despair.

People say, 'How can you speak of hope with everything that is going on?' But God's time is never an accident. His love for us is always Providential. The Lord knows what we need in each moment and turns his merciful heart towards us, inviting us to abide in his love, which also means loving and sharing the Good News with others around us.

We will do good, as pilgrims of hope called to be witnesses of God's love in the world, to immerse ourselves in some prayer and reflection about the true meaning of Christian love. Pope Francis offers us a beautiful, deep, calm and extensive reflection on the human and divine love of the [Sacred Heart](#) of Jesus, a love of which we are the undeserving recipients, and that we are called to imitate. We need "missionaries who are themselves in love and who, enthralled by Christ, feel bound to share this love that has changed their lives" (*Dilex- it nos*, 209). Christ's Sacred Heart, says the Holy Father, "is a synthesis of the Gospel" (DN 83). And quoting St. John Paul II, he reminds us that "through the witness of Christians, 'love will be poured into human hearts, to build up the body of Christ, which is the Church, and to build a society of justice, peace and fraternity'" (DN 206).

As Pope Francis writes in his [Letter to the U.S. Catholic Bishops](#), "The true *ordo amoris* that must be promoted is that which we discover by meditating constantly on the parable of the "Good Samaritan" (cf. *Lk* 10:25-37), that is, by meditating on the love that builds a fraternity open to all, without exception."

Only by allowing God's love to transform us, and by feeling and acting with the heart of Christ, is that Christians will be able to offer a convincing testimony that is capable of bringing hope to a broken world and transform it from within.



Prayer for Pope Francis

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favorably on your servant Francis,
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her
shepherd;
grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Excerpt from the English translation of The Roman Missal
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AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

HOPE OF HARVEST

By: CJ and Dena Washington | Consultants to the Subcommittee on African American Affairs

As we laid our heads to rest on election night, one truth became clear: no matter the outcome, the world would never be the same. Change was inevitable, and with it, a call to embrace hope as our guiding force. Today, we sit with unwavering confidence in the path God has laid before us. In the face of uncertainty, hope rises, becoming the foundation of our journey.

Hope is not merely a fleeting emotion; it is a strength woven into the fabric of our character. It is the force that allows us to look beyond present challenges and see the promise of renewal. As we reflect on the past and move toward the future, we find ourselves on a pilgrimage of hope, planting seeds in new locations, forging connections in unfamiliar spaces, and harvesting wisdom from experience.

Each introduction and reintroduction in our communities is an opportunity to share the light of hope. Through our interactions, others will see in us the very eyes of hope, a reflection of the faith that sustains us. This revelation became even more profound when we learned that this year marks the Jubilee of Hope. A jubilee is a time of renewal, restoration, and rejoicing—a season to acknowledge our received blessings and anticipate the ones yet to come.

As we walk this path of discernment, God continues to reveal insights and strengthen our weaknesses. In this season of hope, we are called to go deeper, to plant our seeds with intention, nurture the dreams God has placed within us, and culti-

vate the communities we are building. Whether on our farm or in our personal and professional endeavors, we must recognize that every act of faith, every labor of love, and every moment of service is part of a greater harvest.

For our family, 2025 is a year of Hope of Harvesting All We Have Planted. We recognize that our ability to reap a bountiful harvest is directly tied to our hope in Jesus Christ. Just as a farmer cannot expect a fruitful season without first planting seeds and tending to the land, we cannot expect spiritual or communal growth without deeply rooting ourselves in faith. Hope is the anticipation of answered prayers, and through faith, we witness the unfolding of God's divine plan.

We invite you to find community in this Jubilee of Hope year. Take the time to reflect on the seeds you have sown in your life, whether in your family, career, or personal growth. Dig deeper into the soil of your purpose. Pull forth the harvest of past lessons and express gratitude for all that has come before. Most importantly, hold onto the hope that the best is yet to come, not just for yourself but for each of our brothers and sisters worldwide.

Let us stand firm in faith, plant our seeds with conviction, and trust in the abundant harvest that awaits. This is our season of hope; through it, we will see God's faithfulness in full bloom.



CJ and Dena Washington reside in the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston and are new consultants to the Subcommittee on African American Affairs at the USCCB.



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PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & TRAVELERS

THE EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES ENCOURAGING YOUNG ADULTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH

By: Fr. Tony Massad | Pastor St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church

This Jubilee Year of Hope invites our universal Church to reflect on the foundation of our hope: Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him. The Maronite Catholic Church embraces this Jubilee Year, celebrating it throughout our Eparchies and encouraging the faithful to deepen their relationship with our Lord Jesus, while becoming bearers of hope to their families, friends, and communities. One of the ways we plan to prepare for the Jubilee Year is to emphasize hope and its significance through young adult regional conferences across the United States.

These conferences will be held in Chicago, Detroit, Houston, and Los Angeles on weekends in the Spring, with the Jubilee Year serving as their central theme. The program will explore the history of Jubilee years, their biblical origins, and how they became a tradition in the Catholic Church. Additionally, we will reflect on how to incorporate the blessings of this Jubilee Year into our daily lives, with a special meditation on living and praying the Lord's Prayer. We aim to welcome approximately 75-100 young adults at each regional conference.

These regional conferences also prepare participants for our annual Eparchial (Diocesan) Young Adult Conference. The Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon, which spans from West Virginia to California, will host this Fall 2025 conference and bring together hundreds of Maronite young adults from across the country. During this four-day event, we will build on the themes of the regional conferences, while also focusing



on how we can better reflect our discipleship to Christ through the virtues of mercy, forgiveness, hope, and solidarity.

We are also excited to announce that, with the support of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PC-MRT), we are actively coordinating an in-person conference to welcome youth and young adult ministers from all Eastern Catholic Churches. This conference will focus on the Jubilee Year of Hope, creating a space for networking, fellowship, and sharing the best practices for ministering to young people in an ever-changing world. This initiative, made possible through the encouragement and support of the PCMRT Subcommittee and the USCCB, will be held in the fall of 2025.

It will be the first event of its kind, bringing together Eastern Catholic Churches in the United States with the goal of fostering future collaboration on national, regional, and local levels. We would be delighted to have you join us as we prepare to engage and journey with young people.

The Eastern Catholic Churches in the United States are generally smaller and more geographically dispersed than Roman Catholic Churches. As a result, gathering for a unified conference presents some challenges, especially when resources are more limited. However, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, we pray for a conference that will uplift all who attend, providing an opportunity to learn, grow, and share in fellowship with one another.



***We must put human dignity back at the center and on that pillar
build the alternative social structures we need.”***

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 168

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS

CALLED TO SERVE, BOUND BY LOVE: AN API JOURNEY TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE JUBILEE YEAR

By: Deacon Christopher Derige Malano, CSP



Hope doesn't wait for the perfect moment—it calls us forward now. The Jubilee Year 2025, with its theme “Pilgrims of Hope,” is a time of renewal and mission. For me, it marks a significant milestone as I prepare for ordination as a priest of Jesus Christ. As an Asian Pacific Islander (API) in the United States, this journey has been shaped by cultural heritage, personal challenges, and the call to serve in a Church that is still growing into its diversity.

Like many API Catholics, I was raised with a deep responsibility toward family. Being the first in my family to earn a higher education and enter a professional career, I struggled with the tension between providing for my parents and answering God's call. Walking away from financial security for religious life felt like a departure from my duty. Many API discerners experience this struggle—how can one be faithful to family and to God's call?

The Jubilee Year reminds us that hope meets us in these tensions. Faith is not just something we profess; it is something we live. Growing up in Hawaii as a Filipino American, I saw how faith was intertwined with relationships, hospitality, and community. These experiences shaped my understanding of ministry—not as leaving behind my roots, but as fulfilling them in a new way.

The Paulist Fathers are committed to encountering, accompanying, and engaging in dialogue—a mission that deeply resonates with the API experience. Many API Catholics navigate dual identities, balancing cultural traditions with life in a Western society. In my journey, I have wrestled with questions of belonging: How do I bring my whole self into min-

istry? How do we create a Church that reflects the diversity of its people? While the majority of the Church in the U.S. is made up of immigrants and believers of color, national and diocesan leadership has not yet fully reflected this diversity, making it difficult for API and other Catholics of color to see themselves represented. And yet, the Jubilee Year calls us to move forward in hope, recognizing that change begins by making space for new voices.

As a future priest, I hope to foster spaces where API Catholics can fully embrace their faith without feeling the need to deny or to minimize their cultural expressions. But this requires more than individual effort—it calls for a shift in families, parishes, and dioceses. We need to create mentorship programs for discerners, encourage families to see vocations as a blessing rather than a loss, and actively seek diverse leadership in the Church.

Pope Francis, just days after beginning his pontificate, reminds us, “Please do not let yourselves be robbed of hope! Do not let hope be stolen! The hope that Jesus gives us.”¹ This hope is my guide as I prepare for ordination, knowing that API Catholics have gifts to share with the Church. The Jubilee is not just a celebration; it is a call to action. It is an opportunity to walk together, proclaiming that our faith, rooted in Christ, is a source of hope for all.

1 Pope Francis, Homily for Palm Sunday, Vatican, March 24, 2013 (https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130324_palme.html), 1.

“The Jubilee Year calls us to move forward in hope, recognizing that change begins by making space for new voices.”

HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS

THE JUBILEE YEAR: A SOURCE OF HOPE FOR IMMIGRANTS

By: Alejandro Aguilera-Titus | Assistant Director Hispanic/Latino Affairs



Pope Francis' call for a Jubilee Year in 2025, could not have been timelier for the Hispanic/Latino community in the United States. The emphasis of the Jubilee year on hope resonates with the unwavering faith of Hispanics/Latinos in the living Christ and his promises of freedom

and consolation. This is particularly true for Hispanic/Latino immigrants and other immigrants that find themselves alone in anxious anticipation to be freed from persecution, incarceration, and deportation. Immigrants ask to be freed from family separation and discrimination as they cry out to God to keep them safe.

A Jubilee Year is a year of favor meant to forgive debts, to start anew, to be forgiven. Jesus started his public ministry announcing a year of favor as he proclaimed the Beatitudes on the Mount. The Jubilee Year 2025 is Pope Francis' and the Church's gift of hope to everyone that finds themselves in need of consolation, freedom, and accompaniment. The emphasis of hope points directly to the fact that new immigrants, and other vulnerable people, don't experience this reality in their lives. Therefore, hope and the fulfillment of Christ's promises is what feeds their spirits and encourages them to believe in the person of Christ, in His promises, and in God's enduring and eternal love.

This year, the universal Church has a unique opportunity to be a witness to God's love and to work tirelessly to bring hope, consolation, and freedom for all peoples. One specific way in which the Church is a promoter and example of justice, a witness to God's promises for immigrants, is its teaching on migration. The Church calls us to welcome and care for immigrants and is deeply rooted in scripture. The United States and Mexican Bishops stated in their joint Pastoral letter *Strangers no Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, "So you, too, must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt" (Dt 10:17-19). For the Israelites, these injunctions were not only

personal exhortations: the welcome and care of the alien were structured into their gleaning and tithing laws (Lv 19:9-10; Dt 14:28-29)." (no. 25)

In this same joint statement, the bishops quote John Paul II's 1990 Lenten Message note "the rights of refugees, including the right to be reunited with their families and the right to a dignified occupation and just wage. The right to asylum must never be denied when people's lives are truly threatened in their homeland." (no. 31)

In this joint statement the bishops echo the rich tradition of the Church teaching on migration and offer five principles emerging from such teaching that guide the Church's view on migration issues.

1. Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland. (no. 34)
2. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families. (no. 35)
3. Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders. (no. 36)
4. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection. (no. 37)
5. The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected. (no. 38)

These five principles are the foundation for a comprehensive immigration reform. These principles are good news for immigrants and their families. They generate hope that such reform even though unlikely at this point in U.S. society, someday soon will be fulfilled. The Church believes in these principles because they echo Jesus' promises in the beatitudes and such belief encourages us to continue the work needed now to work towards such goal.

As Pope Francis invites us to be Pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee Year, many leaders serving Hispanics/Latinos are planning a pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee for Migrants on October 1-8, 2024. They do so as they continue to hope and work to accompany immigrant communities and to advocate for the respect of their rights and for comprehensive immigration reform.

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(Together on the Journey of Hope , no. 25)

HISPANIC/LATINO AFFAIRS

EL AÑO JUBILAR: UNA FUENTE DE ESPERANZA PARA LOS INMIGRANTES

By: Alejandro Aguilera-Titus | Asistente de dirección Hispanic/Latino



na en Estados Unidos. El énfasis del Año Jubilar en la esperanza resuena con la inquebrantable fe de los hispanos/latinos en Jesucristo Vivo y sus promesas de libertad y consuelo. Esto es particularmente cierto para los inmigrantes hispanos/latinos y otros inmigrantes que se encuentran solos, ansiosamente esperando ser liberados de la persecución, del encarcelamiento y de la deportación. Los inmigrantes piden ser liberados de la separación familiar y de la discriminación, al tiempo que claman a Dios que los mantenga a salvo.

Un Año Jubilar es un año de favor para perdonar las deudas, para comenzar de nuevo, para ser perdonados. Jesús comenzó su ministerio público anunciando un año de favor al tiempo que proclamó las bienaventuranzas en la montaña. El Año Jubilar 2025 es el regalo de esperanza del Papa Francisco y de la Iglesia a todos quienes se encuentran en necesidad de consuelo, de libertad y de acompañamiento. El énfasis en la esperanza apunta directamente al hecho de que los inmigrantes y otras personas vulnerables no experimentan esta realidad en sus vidas hoy. Por lo tanto, la esperanza y el cumplimiento de las promesas de Cristo es lo que alimenta su espíritu y los anima a creer en la persona de Cristo, en las promesas de Cristo y en el amor imperecedero y eterno de Dios.

Este año, la Iglesia universal tiene una oportunidad única de ser testigo del amor de Dios, y de trabajar incansablemente para traer esperanza, consuelo y libertad para todas las personas. Una manera específica en que la Iglesia puede ser una promotora y ejemplo de justicia, testigo de las promesas de Dios a los inmigrantes, es su enseñanza sobre la migración. La Iglesia nos llama a dar la bienvenida y a cuidar a los inmigrantes, y esto está profundamente enraizado en las Escrituras. Los obispos de Estados Unidos y México declararon en su carta pastoral conjunta *Juntos en el camino* de la esperanza: ya no somos extranjeros, “Amen ustedes también

La convocatoria del Papa Francisco al Año Jubilar 2025, no pudo haber sido más oportuna para la comunidad hispana/lati-

al extranjero, ya que extranjeros fueron ustedes en el país de Egipto” (Dt 10,17-19) Para los israelitas, estos mandatos no consistían solamente en exhortaciones personales. La bienvenida y acogida del extranjero fueron inclusive vinculadas a las leyes del espigueo y del diezmo (Lv 19,9-10; Dt 14,28-29)”. (no. 25)

En esta misma declaración conjunta, los obispos citan el mensaje de cuaresma de 1990 de San Juan Pablo II “los derechos de los refugiados, incluyendo el derecho a reunirse con sus familiares y el derecho a un trabajo digno con un salario justo. El derecho al asilo jamás debe negarse cuando la vida de la persona peligre realmente si permanece en su tierra natal”. (no. 31)

En esta declaración conjunta los obispos se hacen eco de la rica tradición de la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre migración, y ofrece cinco principios que emergen de esa enseñanza que guían la mirada de la Iglesia sobre cuestiones de migración.

1. Las personas tienen derecho a encontrar oportunidades en su propio país. (no. 34)
2. Las personas tienen derecho a migrar para la manutención propia y de sus familias. (no. 35)
3. Las naciones soberanas tienen derecho a controlar sus fronteras. (no. 36)
4. A los refugiados y a quienes buscan asilo se les debe ofrecer protección. (no. 37)
5. La dignidad humana y los derechos humanos de los migrantes indocumentados deben ser respetados. (no. 38)

Estos cinco principios son la base para una reforma migratoria integral. Estos principios son buenas noticias para los inmigrantes y sus familias. Ellos generan la esperanza de que una reforma tal, aunque improbable en este momento en la sociedad de EE.UU., algún día será alcanzada. La Iglesia cree en estos principios porque Jesús promete eso en las bienaventuranzas y dicha creencia nos anima a continuar el trabajo ahora necesario hacia esa meta.

Así como el Papa Francisco nos invita a ser Peregrinos de la Esperanza durante este Año Jubilar, muchos líderes al servicio de los hispanos/latinos están planeando una peregrinación a Roma para celebrar el Jubileo de los Migrantes del 1 al 8 de octubre de 2025. Ellos realizan esto, al tiempo que continúan suscitando esperanza y trabajando para acompañar a las comunidades de inmigrantes, abogando por el respeto de sus derechos y por una reforma migratoria integral.



“Amen ustedes también al extranjero, ya que extranjeros fueron ustedes en el país de Egipto” (Dt 10,17-19) Para los israelitas, estos mandatos no consistían solamente en exhortaciones personales. La bienvenida y acogida del extranjero fueron inclusive vinculadas a las leyes del espigueo y del diezmo (Lv 19,9-10; Dt 14,28-29)”. (Juntos en el camino de la esperanza: ya no somos extranjeros, no. 25)

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND USCCB'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

By: Felicitas Brugo Onetti, MSW I Anti-Trafficking Education
and Outreach Coordinator
Migration and Refugee Services

Overview of the USCCB Anti-Trafficking Program

At the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, various committees and programs are created and implemented to promote the greater good of the Church and its people. One of these programs is the Anti-Trafficking Program. The [Anti-Trafficking Program](#) was created to educate and advocate for survivors of human trafficking and to uphold the dignity and worth of the individual despite the tragic situations that they face. Millions of men, women, and children are exploited and trafficked within the United States and abroad. Through educating and advocating for survivors of human trafficking, the dangers of this, and the statistical prevalence of human trafficking in the world today, efforts can be examined and acted upon for the greater protection of our brothers and sisters.

Hawaii Program Initiative

One of these program initiatives is working with Indigenous communities regarding human and labor trafficking. Although this is a new program, there is much work to be done as the impact of trafficking is great in this community. [In 2023](#), 110 signals were received by the Human Trafficking Hotline with 34 signals received from victims or survivors of human trafficking. Although this number may seem small, that does not mean that human trafficking is not prevalent. Human trafficking takes many forms such as sex and labor.



When developing the curriculum for students in Hawaii, it was critical to ensure that the educational components of what is human trafficking and others were covered. Indigenous communities may not obtain the resources or support to implement change within their communities as it is a complex situation.

Within the labor market, Indigenous communities may not understand the complexities of human trafficking and that through working in the importation market, especially in the fishing industry, their rights are being taken advantage of. The impact of this conference and curriculum program highlighted the criticality of explaining what

human trafficking was, the prevalence within their communities, how to grow trust and relationships with agencies in the various islands to expand their knowledge of how to look for human trafficking victims, and more.

The implementation of this program went very well, and promising efforts were made through conversations with various organizations and the University of Hawaii to work with students and help educate them on what is happening in their communities and what they would like to see occur. Through this, students were able to directly interact with stakeholders and others in the community that are passionate about this issue to advocate for the vulnerable population of Indigenous communities and raise awareness of how what is happening and what changes can be made.



Through educating and advocating for survivors of human trafficking, the dangers of this, and the statistical prevalence of human trafficking in the world today, efforts can be examined and acted upon for the greater protection of our brothers and sisters.



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*Diocese of San José, Chairman of the Subcommittee
on Hispanic Affairs*

Most Reverend Joseph Espallat,
Archdiocese of New York

Most Reverend Earl Fernandes,
*Diocese of Columbus, Chairman of the Subcommittee on
Asian and Pacific Island Affairs*

Most Reverend John T. Folda,
*Diocese of Fargo, Chairman of the Subcommittee on
Native American Affairs*

Most Reverend Alan Nunes,
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

SECRETARIAT OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

Executive Director

Mrs. Mar Muñoz-Visoso, MTS
mmunoz-visoso@uscgb.org • 202-541-3350

Executive Assistant

Ms. Stefanie Miles
smiles@uscgb.org • 202-541-3350

AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Assistant Director

Ansel Augustine, D. Min
aagustine@uscgb.org • 202-541-3178

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS

Assistant Director

Vacant
202-541-3350

HISPANIC AFFAIRS

Assistant Director

Mr. Alejandro Aguilera-Titus
aaguilera-titus@uscgb.org • 202-541-3155

NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Assistant Director

Fr. Michael Carson
mcarson@uscgb.org • 202-541-3427

PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND TRAVELERS, AND NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF STELLA MARIS

Assistant Director

Sr. Dr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ
jokereke@uscgb.org • 202-541-3359

Program Coordinator

Ms. Madeline Watkins, MTS
mwatkins@uscgb.org • 202-541-3035

EDUCATION AND PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Mrs. Yolanda Taylor-Burwell CMP
ytaylor-burwell@uscgb.org • 202-541-3152

STAFF ASSISTANT

Mr. Robert Hancock, M.A.
rhancock@uscgb.org • 202-541-3225

STAFF ASSISTANT-BILINGUAL

Mr. Marcelo Daneil Davila-Olivera
mdavila-olivera@uscgb.org • 202-541-3150

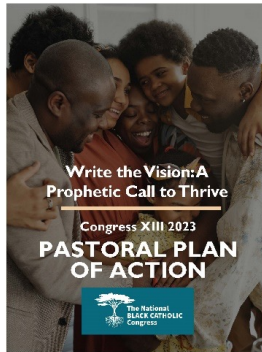


**Say hello to our new
colleague!**

Marcelo Daniel Davila-Olivera
Staff Assistant-Bilingual

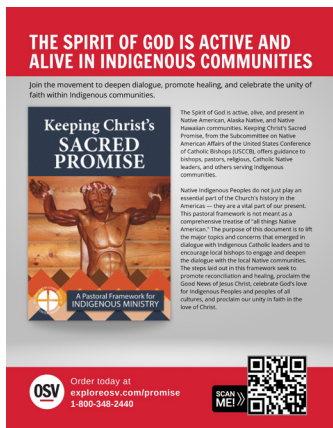
“I am eager to support this great organization and all others who work along with it. It is an honor to be able to contribute to the fulfillment of its caring and noble activities, which have an invaluable impact both on our local and global communities.”

CULTURAL DIVERSITY RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



The National Black Catholic Congress - Write the Vision - Pastoral Plan of Action

Jesus lights a flame of mission and service within us. Jesus invites us into His mission and we make the decision to follow Him by investing ourselves in doing good. That is what “Come follow Me” is all about. That is what the National Black Catholic Congress Pastoral Plan is all about—following Jesus. The NBCC Pastoral Plan is another opportunity for us to re-visit our Christian vocation and ask ourselves “What shall we do in such a time like this where many challenges abound?” However, it is in such a time like this whereby God’s grace keeps pace with whatever we face. For more information, visit the [National Black Catholic Congress](https://www.usccb.org/congress/xiii)



Keeping Christ’s Sacred Promise A Pastoral Framework for Indigenous Ministry

The Spirit of God is active, alive, and present in Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. The Subcommittee on Native American Affairs is pleased to present this Pastoral Framework to offer guidance to bishops, pastors, religious, Catholic Native leaders, and others serving Indigenous communities. Click to order online: <https://www.ordersv.com/product/keeping-christ-s-sacred-promise-a-pastoral-framework-for-indigenous-ministry>

Hispanic Affairs Subcommittee Releases Resource Kit on Hispanic/Latino Communities and Ministries

To help illustrate the profound impact of the Hispanic/Latino community within the Catholic Church in the United States, a resource has been developed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. The document is part of the implementation of the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry and underscores the ongoing commitment of the USCCB’s Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs to recognizing and celebrating the rich cultural heritage and contributions of Hispanic/Latino Catholics.

For more information on Hispanic ministry and to access the resource kit, click: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/hispanic-latino-affairs>

Hispanic/Latino Ministry Media Resources [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Listen Teach Send A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults

This framework, approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in June 2024, gives guidance for the Catholic Church in accompanying and evangelizing young people: youth (in junior high and high school) and young adults (in their late teens, 20s, and 30s). The methodology is rooted in the Gospel story of the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35) and invites pastoral leaders and families, in their engagement with young people, to imitate Jesus who listens attentively, teaches from the heart, and sends disciples into the world.

The document begins with a preface letter addressed directly from the U.S. Bishops to youth and young adults and continues with the three-part framework text for pastoral ministers, families, and young leaders in the Church.

Click to order the framework:

Click for online resources: <https://www.usccb.org/listen-teach-send>

Online version: Click for more [Secretariat Resources](#)

Click for more [Secretariat Resources](#)

