



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Pilgrims on the Way of Hope: A Resource for the Jubilee of the Holy See

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops

Jubilee of the Holy See: Resource Packet

June 9, 2025

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. The Jubilee of the Holy See will be held Monday, June 9, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating the work of the Holy See at any time throughout the Jubilee Holy Year.

Though this celebration in Rome is dedicated to the men and women who work at the Vatican, this moment can be used as a chance for all Catholics to reflect more deeply on the efforts of the Holy See and the Holy Father, whose ministry is to unite and shepherd the universal Church.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan a celebration of the Holy See. For those who are making any type of Jubilee pilgrimage to the Holy See in Rome or to a particular Jubilee celebration or holy site in a diocese or eparchy within the United States during 2025, this packet can also serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip.



Additional resources for the Jubilee can be found online at the USCCB Jubilee web pages: in English at <https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025> and in Spanish at <https://www.usccb.org/es/committees/jubileo-2025>.

EXPLANATION & REFLECTION

The Second Vatican Council defined the papacy as “the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and the whole company of the faithful” (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 23). The Pope is the successor of Saint Peter, whom Jesus entrusted with “the keys to the kingdom of heaven” after telling him, “upon this rock I will



build my church" (Mt 16:18,19). For two millennia, Saint Peter and his successors have served as the Vicar of Christ on earth.

To manage and support the temporal affairs of this incredible office, the Church established the Holy See, the governance structure of the Catholic Church based at the Vatican in Rome. Through this Jubilee moment, the Church invites us to pause and reflect on the men and women who directly aid the Holy Father and represent the Church's interests in global affairs.

Much of the work of these people happen "behind the scenes." We may never know their names, but we certainly see the fruits of their labor in the words, actions, and presence of the Pope as the head of the Vatican City State and Roman Pontiff. This includes people who work within the Vatican Secretariat of State and the Pontifical Swiss Guard, as well as the Roman Curia, which comprises the leadership and staff of the various offices (called "dicasteries") that oversee the Vatican's work regarding evangelization, culture and education, the doctrine of the faith, interreligious dialogue, integral human development, communications, laity, family, and life issues, and more. The daily administrative work of the governance, diplomacy, writing, and management of the Catholic Church on the international level is unseen by most people. And yet, such efforts allow the Pope to lead effectively and decisively on a worldwide scale.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul included a list of the various roles Christians might play within the Church: "Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of

tongues" (1 Cor 12:28). Among these spiritual gifts God grants, administration is hardly the most attractive. Still, it is a God-given gift and those who serve through it can be a blessing to the entire ecclesial community.

Take a moment to pray for the men and women who have served within the Holy See through the ages, who have surrounded the Pope with their skills, talents, creativity, and hard work, so that they may benefit the People of God through service, statecraft, security, protection, and mission-driven concern. They fortify the "rock" upon which the Church is built so that people around the world will find God's solace, unity, and love.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ROME-BOUND PILGRIMS

The pilgrimage is an important element of the Jubilee Holy Year. For some, that may involve going to Rome to see the work of the Holy See in person. Rome is often where international pilgrims traditionally visit to walk through the Holy Doors of the four great basilicas (Saint Peter, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran).

Should you or your ministry/group/community decide to travel to Rome, in particular during the Jubilee of the Holy See (June 9, 2025), the following may be helpful:

- Develop a trip of your own or go through a licensed tour operator that specializes or has experience in religious travel. The latter option may cost extra, but it can save a local organizer time; additionally, those operators may have existing connections with vendors and may be able to advise on travel concerns. PLEASE NOTE: The USCCB does not endorse nor identify any licensed tour operator as the official U.S. tour operator.



- The [official Jubilee events for the Holy See](#) are limited to those who work in this capacity in Rome on Monday, June 9, 2025. Do not expect to attend these particular programs. However, should you engage with those who work within the Holy See, including the Pontifical Swiss Guard, be sure to extend your thanks to them for the work they do on behalf of the Church.
- Pilgrims and groups may also consider additional activities, either planned on their own or events hosted by organizations, apostolates, episcopal conferences, or movements.
- Prepare for this trip with liturgies, retreats, devotional and service experiences, community building, catechesis, and fundraising, as needed. Take time for prayer, especially with the Blessed Sacrament.
- Practical travel preparation will be essential, especially since Jubilee events in Rome are expected to draw large crowds. This Jubilee takes place in summer, so it is important that pilgrims recognize causes, symptoms, and support for dehydration, sickness, and heat exhaustion should they arise.
- Pilgrims should bring backpacks, comfortable shoes, appropriate summer clothing, necessary medications and supplies, and resources that aid in pilgrim prayer. Packing light is essential.
- After returning home or to the United States, take time for prayer and theological reflection on the graces of God received during the pilgrimage to Rome. If you went as a group, continue to gather in the weeks and months following the trip to support one another and coordinate missionary actions.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING THE HOLY SEE LOCALLY

Suggestions for Parishes

- During the week, from June 9 to 13, use the weekday liturgies to remember the work of the Holy See, such as during the homilies or general intercessions. Pray in a special way for those whose administrative work in the Church goes largely unseen. An example petition for the Prayer of the Faithful (which may complement the usual prayer for the Pope or the Church) might include:

For the Holy See and the unseen men and women who daily assist the Holy Father in administrative work in governance, diplomacy, security, and ministry, that they may continue to be strengthened for their mission and that it may bear great fruit around the world, we pray to the Lord.

- Use this as an opportunity to begin the work of regularly praying for the intentions of the Holy Father. See this page on the USCCB website: <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2025>, which also links to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: <https://popesprayerusa.net/>. Join with Catholics worldwide in praying for these special intentions. As part of the Jubilee celebration, these particular prayers are an essential element to the conditions for the [plenary indulgence](#).
- Host one or a series of sessions at the parish around the importance and history of the papacy and the work of the Holy See, using resources from a nearby Catholic university to aid in this exploration. Conclude the session or each session with extended time in prayer for the Holy Father and the men and women at the Vatican who assist in the administration of the Holy See.



- Conduct a Bible study reflection around the spiritual gift of administration (using 1 Cor 12:28, or the entirety of the twelfth chapter in Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians: 1 Cor 12:1-31). Reflect on what unseen "behind the scenes" administrative gifts each participant may also have, and how God wishes for all people to be fruitful in the application of those gifts to serve Christ and one another.
- Livestream or replay video of key Jubilee events taking place in Rome June 9 (noting the time difference between Rome and your local area).

Suggestions for Dioceses and Eparchies

- Post stories about the Holy See and its work within the Church and around the world during the week of June 9-13 on the diocesan or eparchial website, social media channels, and communications (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, etc.).
- Use this Jubilee moment to encourage Catholics across the diocese/eparchy to join with Catholics worldwide to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. See this page on the USCCB website: <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/popes-monthly-intentions-2025>, which also links to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: <https://popesprayerusa.net/>. As part of the Jubilee celebration, these particular prayers are an essential element to the conditions for the [plenary indulgence](#).
- Celebrate a liturgy or host a prayer service for members of the diocesan curia at the diocesan/eparchial cathedral on or near June 9, concurrent with the Jubilee celebrations for the Vatican Curia happening in Rome at that time. You may also wish to hold a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee walking pilgrimage for members of diocesan curia.

KEY SAINTS

Holy Companions

- **St. Peter (martyred between 64 and 68 A.D., feast of the Chair of St. Peter Feb. 22, feast of Sts. Peter and Paul June 29)**, apostle and martyr, whom Jesus Christ gave "the keys to the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 16:19), the first pope who led the Church after Christ's Ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- **St. Joseph (feast days March 19 and, as the Worker, May 1)**, foster father of Jesus Christ and spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron and protector of the Universal Church.
- **St. Leo the Great (400-461, feast day November 10)**, pope from 440 to 461, known for persuading Attila the Hun from conquering Italy, charitable works, promoting human dignity, and a Doctor of the Church.
- **St. Gregory the Great (540-604, feast day September 3)**, pope from 590 to 604, known for his writings, missionary work, liturgical reform, and a Doctor of the Church; patron saint of musicians and teachers.
- **St. Nicholas the Great (800-867, feast day November 13)**, pope from 858 to 867, known for consolidating papal primacy and authority and instituting the tradition of fasting from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- **St. Celestine V (1209-1296, feast day May 19)**, a Benedictine hermit who became pope in 1294 after a two-year conclave, retired from papacy after six months; though he had intended to return to monastic life, he was imprisoned by his successor until his death; patron saint of bookbinders and papal resignations.
- **St. John XXIII (1904-1963, feast day October 11)**, pope from 1958 to 1963, affectionately known as "The Good Pope," he convoked Second Vatican Council to emphasize the pastoral nature of the Church; wrote the



encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (1963) on peace; patron of nuncios/delegates of the Holy See and Christian unity.

- **St. Paul VI (1897-1978, feast day May 29)**, pope from 1963 to 1978; a lifelong diplomat, he worked within the Vatican Secretariat of State and Roman Curia; continued and completed the Second Vatican Council; known as “The Pilgrim Pope” for his extensive travels; wrote the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (1968) on human life and the exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (1975) on evangelization; and fostered improved ecumenical relations.
- **St. John Paul II (1920-2005, feast day October 22)**, pope from 1978 to 2005, originally from Poland, was first pope from outside Italy in 455 years, the third longest-serving pope, and the most-traveled pope visiting 129 countries during his papacy; promulgated the 1983 *Code of Canon Law* and the 1992 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, instituted World Youth Days; expanded the interreligious, ecumenical, and global social engagement of the Catholic Church following Vatican II, leading to the fall of Communism in Europe.

PRAYERS

Prayers for the Holy See

General Prayer for the Pope

*Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff:
The Lord preserve him and give him life,
and make him blessed upon the earth,
and deliver him not to the will of his enemies.*

Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

*O Glorious Saint Joseph,
you were chosen by God
to be the foster father of Jesus,*

*the most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin,
and the head of the Holy Family.
You have been chosen by Christ's Vicar
as the heavenly Patron and Protector
of the Church founded by Christ.*

*Protect the Sovereign Pontiff
and all bishops and priests united with him.
Be the protector of all who labor for souls
amid the trials and tribulations of this life;
and grant that all peoples of the world
may be docile to the Church
without which there is no salvation.*

*Dear Saint Joseph,
accept the offering I make to you.
Be my father, protector, and guide
in the way of salvation.
Obtain for me purity of heart
and a love for the spiritual life.
After your example, let all my actions
be directed to the greater glory of God,
in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus,
the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
and your own paternal heart.
Finally, pray for me that I may share
in the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen.*

A Prayer for Peace to the Blessed Mother by St. John XXIII

*We turn to you, O blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of Jesus and our Mother also.
How can we, with trembling hearts, apply ourselves
to this greatest problem of life or death,
which overshadows all mankind,
without relying on your intercession
to keep us safe from all dangers?*

*This is your hour, Mary; to you Jesus entrusted us
in the final moment of His sacrifice of blood.
We are confident in your intercession.*

*On the Eighth of September Holy Church kept
the feast of your most happy birthday,
hailing it as the first beginning of the world's
salvation and the growth of peace.*



*This indeed, is what we beg of you,
most loving Mother and Queen of all the world.
The world has no need
of victorious wars and defeated peoples,
but of the renewed strength of salvation
and of the fruitfulness and calm of peace:
this is its need and this it is for which it cries aloud:
"salutis exordium; et pacis incrementum";
"the dawn of salvation and growth of peace."
Amen. Amen.*

(from [Message of Pope John XXIII for Peace](#),
09/10/1961)

Act of Entrustment to Mary by St. John Paul II

*O Virgin Mary, Jesus on the Cross
wanted to entrust us to you,
not to lessen but to reaffirm
his exclusive role as Savior of the world.*

*If in the disciple John
all the children of the Church
were entrusted to you,
the happier I am to see
the young people of the world
entrusted to you, O Mary.
To you, gentle Mother,
whose protection I have always experienced,
this evening I entrust them to you once again.
All seek refuge and protection
under your mantle.
You, Mother of divine grace,
make them shine with the beauty of Christ!*

*The young people of this century,
at the dawn of the new millennium,
still live the torment that derives from sin,
from hatred, from violence,
from terrorism and from war.
But it is also the young to whom
the Church looks confidently,
knowing that with the help of God's grace,
they will succeed in believing
and in living as Gospel witnesses
in present day history.*

*O Mary,
help them to respond to their vocation.
Guide them to the knowledge of true love
and bless their affections.
Support them in times of suffering.
Make them fearless heralds
of Christ's greeting on Easter Day:
Peace be with you!
With them, I also entrust myself
once again to you
and with confident affection
I repeat to you:
Totus Tuus ego sum!
I am all yours!*

*And each one of them
cries to you, with me:
Totus Tuus! Totus Tuus! Amen.*

(from [Act of Entrustment to Mary](#) by St. John Paul II, 04/10/2003)

Adsumus Sanctae Spiritus

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.*

(The Adsumus prayer was said at the beginning of every session of the Second Vatican Council, 1962-1965, and the Synod on Synodality, 2021-2024, and has also been used at



Councils, Synods, and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years; originally attributed to St. Isidore of Seville [560-636].)

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, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

HOLY SEE ONLINE

- **Vatican Website**, the online home of the Holy See, with links to papal writings and speeches, audiences and events, the Vatican library and archives, Vatican offices, and the Vatican City State: <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>.

