





Pilgrims on the Way of Hope: A Resource for the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality: Resource Packet

October 11-12, 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 Marian Spirituality will be held from Saturday, October 11, through Sunday, October 12, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating Marian Spirituality at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

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 their celebration of the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of year-round resources for local communities.

Marian Spirituality has taken many forms in the contemporary life of the Church. To see how Marian Spirituality has developed, please read more at this link: The Marian Spirituality of 'Lumen Gentium' and the Renewal of Marian Devotion in the Church Today.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

The spirituality of Marian devotions has deep roots in the history of the Church. This devotion to the Blessed Mother has transcended time and place to become a central spiritual pillar for the faithful. From the moment Christ spoke the words "Behold your mother" (John 19:26) the Virgin Mary has been a pivotal figure in Christian devotion. The creation of hymns and prayers in honor of Mary can be found amongst the earliest writings of the Church. Marian devotion has developed and taken on many enriching forms that capture the heart of Christians everywhere.

Mary has long represented the ideal model for Christians. Her virtues and example were extolled in antiquity by the fathers of the Church. Her humble and honest acceptance of God's will, her *fiat*, is placed as the highest form of faith. Mary is the model of faith exemplifying trusting surrender to our Lord's plan.

Many of the Church Fathers saw Mary through a typological lens. As our Lord Jesus Christ became the new Adam, Mary became the new Eve. Sin and death were brought about by Adam and Eve taking and eating from the fruit of the tree in center of the Garden of Eden. Sin and death are defeated by the new Eve saying 'yes' to God's plan of Salvation and by the fruit of her own womb, Jesus, giving himself up to be sacrificed upon a tree in Golgotha. Mary's role in salvation history is far from small and the love she has for us as children of God is equally as large.

Through her role as the mother of God, Mary has a distinct honor to bring our pleas and prayers to her Son and to plead on our behalf for mercy and grace. Turning to Mary in prayer enriches our spiritual life both through her own maternal comforting and through her intercession to Our Lord which brings us ever closer to Christ.

Marian devotions can be found throughout the spiritual life of the Church in <u>various ways</u>. For example, there are feast days associated with the Virgin Mary, traditions such as May Crownings, and especially the Holy Rosary; all ways through which many throughout the Church have found great solace.

The transcendental nature of Marian spirituality is best reflected in the numerous apparitions of the Virgin Mother. These apparitions have occurred across the world and across various cultures. The incredible spread of Marian visions and apparitions speak to the impact that the figure of Mary has on Christian spirituality.

The apparitions of the Virgin Mary that obtain formal approval from the Vatican become associated with feasts and pilgrimages to which many faithful feels a great attachment and which become integrated into the spiritual lives of millions of faithful. These apparitions have taken place across the world and speak to various cultures and peoples. Some of these apparitions will be spoken of later in this resource packet, but it is important to note that those presented here are only a fraction of the rich tapestry of Marian devotions.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PILGRIM PREPARATION

One major element of the Jubilee celebration for Catholics is making pilgrimage. For some, that may involve going to Rome, where international pilgrims traditionally visit the Holy Doors of the four great basilicas (Saint Peter, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran). For most others, though, local Jubilee pilgrimages can be made to diocesan or eparchial cathedrals, churches, and/or religious sites.

For those that are making a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome or to a particular Jubilee celebration in a diocese or eparchy within the United States during 2025, this packet can serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip.

For those who will be in Rome during the Jubilee days for Marian Spirituality, please consider the schedule:

Saturday 11th October

- 8.00-17.00: Pilgrimage to the Holy Door with opportunities for confession in the Jubilee churches
- 17.00-19.00: Prayer Vigil (Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore)

Sunday 12 October

 10.30: Holy Mass presided over by the Holy Father (St. Peter's Square)



Entrance to St. Peter's Square, on the occasion of the Holy Mass presided over by the Holy Father, is completely free and does not require any type of ticket.

Bishops and Presbyters who wish to concelebrate, and Deacons who wish to participate, should make reservations with the Office for the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff through the following link: https://biglietti.liturgiepontificie.va/en/. Registrations will open only after the official publication of the calendar of celebrations presided over by the Holy Father.

Should you or your ministry/group/community decide to travel to Rome, in particular for the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality (October 11 and 12), the following may be helpful:

- You can develop a trip on your own or go through a licensed tour operator that specializes in or has experience with religious travel. The latter option may cost extra, but can save a local organizer time, may have existing connections with vendors, and would 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 Marian spirituality, beginning October 11, include Jubilee rites through Holy Doors, the Day of Reconciliation, an Evening Vigil, and the Closing Mass. Participating in these activities will offer pilgrims the full Jubilee experience.
- Pilgrims and groups may also consider additional activities, either planned on their own or events hosted by organizations, apostolates, or movements.
- Pilgrims should bring backpacks, comfortable shoes, appropriate summer clothing, necessary medications and

- supplies, and resources that aid in pilgrim prayers. 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.

If coordinating a local pilgrimage within the United States:

It is highly recommended to make pilgrimage to one's own diocesan or eparchial cathedral or other church(es) or religious site(s) or shrines of Our Lady designated by the bishop or eparch.

- Planning for a local pilgrimage can take place at any time of year, or it can be done at the same time as the events for Marian pilgrimage in Rome (October 11-12, 2025). The timing, as well as the exact local destination, is at the discretion of the local organizer(s).
- Research the pilgrimage destination to ensure that your visit does not coincide with liturgical or local community events or is being done within the posted opening hours for the site. You may wish to contact someone in leadership at the location in advance, especially if you plan to bring a group.
- Before embarking on the local pilgrimage, consider taking time for prayer and community-building, like the type of spiritual preparation one would take for an international journey.
- After returning home (even if the trip was local), take time for prayer and theological reflection on the graces of God received during the pilgrimage experience. 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.

MARIAN SHRINES AND LOCATIONS

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a Catholic minor basilica and national shrine in Washington D.C.--the largest Catholic church building in North America. The basilica is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception, designated as the principal Patroness accorded by Pope Pius IX on February 7, 1847. Pope Pius XI donated a mosaic rendition of the image in 1923. It serves as the patronal church of the Catholic Church in the United States. Pope John Paul II raised the National Shrine to the status of Minor Basilica via his Pontifical decree Clarum Constat Templum on October 12, 1990. At this shrine, Pope Benedict XVI bestowed a Golden Rose on April 26, 2008, and Pope Francis canonized St. Junípero Serra here on September 23, 2015.

Other Marian Shrines and sites around the United States: https://www.catholictravelusa.com/blog/american-marian-shrines.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING MARIAN DEVOTION LOCALLY

Suggestions for Parishes

 Use the weekend liturgies on October 11 and 12 to recognize all the members of the community: in the homily, general intercessions, with a special blessing. An example of a petition for the Prayer of the Faithful might include:

For Catholics in this parish and in the wider community, that they may find comfort, guidance, and a deeper connection to their faith by embracing Marian prayers, we pray to the Lord.

- Host a Jubilee prayer service, held at the parish at some point between October 11 and 12, that recognizes different Marian devotions and their importance to society and to the Church.
- Plan a local pilgrimage for the faithful to the diocesan/eparchial cathedral or to another church in your area with an existing Marian Shrine, using the ideas laid out in the previous section.
- Livestream or replay video of key Jubilee events (i.e., Opening Mass, Vigil, or Closing Mass) taking place in Rome between October 11 and 12 at one or more gatherings held at the parish (noting the time difference between Rome and your local area). You may also consider coordinating programs at the parish during the livestream viewings such as liturgies, Eucharistic adoration, confessions, catechesis, service projects, small groups, or social activities.

Suggestions for Dioceses and Eparchies

- Celebrate a liturgy or host a prayer service at the diocesan/eparchial cathedral/Marian shrine on October 11 and 12, concurrent with the Jubilee celebrations happening in Rome. Invite all parishes across the diocese to attend. Also invite, if present, members of the Legion of Mary in the United States. (An international association of the lay apostolate, in which members sanctify themselves through prayer and apostolic work in union with Our Lady. The members are engaged primarily in corporal and spiritual works of mercy.)
- Post stories about Marian events on the diocesan or eparchial website, social media channels, and communications (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, etc.) prior to and/or during the Jubilee of Marian Devotion in October 2025. Post testimonies about Marian Apparitions.



- Host a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee gathering of Marian Devotion with the bishop/eparch. This can be a presentation, dialogue/discussion, meet-and-greet social, meal, liturgy, and/or a virtual event, allowing the faithful across the diocese/eparchy to engage with their episcopal shepherd.
- Encourage all diocesan/eparchial offices and departments to feature, celebrate, or acknowledge Marian devotion during October 2025, centered around the global Jubilee celebrations. This might need to be preceded by a workshop or meeting with diocesan/eparchial staff to coordinate efforts.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

Additional resources for the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality and other celebrations can be found online at the USCCB Jubilee Year web pages: available in English http://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025 and available in Spanish at https://www.usccb.org/es/committees/jubileo-2025.

Encyclicals

Encyclicals remain a particularly effective way of conveying the teaching of the Church to the faithful and there are many benefits to be gained from reading these documents. When it comes to the teachings on Mary, the encyclical *Redemptoris Mater* issued by Pope St. John Paul II on March 25, 1987, on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and in honor of Mary's Jubilee, remains a classic of papal teaching on Mary.

St. John Paul II's writing greatly enriches our understanding of Mary through extensive references to works on the various devotions to the Blessed Mother. Among these numerous references are sources such as the Second

Vatican Councils document <u>Lumen Gentium</u> and St. Louis de Montfort's devotional work *True Devotion to Mary*. This encyclical provides a comprehensive understanding of the Blessed Mother's role and presence within the Church.

Saint John Paul II emphasized that *Redemptoris Mater* spoke not only of the doctrine of faith but also of the life of faith, "and thus of authentic 'Marian Spirituality' seen in the light of Tradition, and especially the spirituality to which the [Second Vatican] Council exhorts us" (no. 48). The Marian Spirituality that St. John Paul II presents is one derived from a rich source of historical experience from various Christian communities.

The first section of the encyclical, entitled "Mary in the Mystery of Christ," provides many important points about Mary's life, her existence, and the role she plays in the Church. This section provides many saliant points to meditate on when considering the Blessed Mother's place and role in God's plan of salvation.

The second section, "The Mother of God at the Center of the Pilgrim Church," speaks about Mary's presence in the Church's pilgrimage of faith and about how Mary, "the model of this pilgrimage," is to lead Christians to the unity willed by God (no. 30). He highlights the reverence in which she is held by both the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

The third section, entitled "Maternal Mediation," emphasized the maternal role of Mary and highlights how Mary's maternal role does not obscure the mediation of Christ, which is unique, "but rather shows its power" (no. 38).

St. John Paul II recognized that Mary's presence in the Church's mission can be found in many different expressions throughout the Church's history. The shrines and apparitions sometimes tied to these shrines are examples not only of individuals, but of nations, societies, and even



entire continents seeking to meet the Blessed Mother of Our Lord.

Of course, Saint John Paul II was not the first or only pope to have written encyclicals on Mary. There are three other stand-out encyclicals that are worth reading. The first is from Pope Saint Pius X titled Ad Diem Illum Laetissimum (1904) which centres on the Immaculate Conception and highlights the spiritual truths and benefits of this Marian Title. The second encyclical is from Pope Pius XII, Ad Caeli Reginam (1954) highlights the Queenship of Mary and provides a fascinating insight into the history and theological backing of Mary's Queenship. And finally, Pope Paul VI's Marialis Cultus (1974) which covers the rightly ordered devotion to Mary in light of the Second Vatican Council.

Marian Apparitions

Marian apparitions are supernatural events wherein the Virgin Mary appears to one or more people. While these events are mostly associated with the Catholic tradition, there have been other apparitions, particularly in the Coptic Orthodox Church. Many of us are likely familiar with the more famous examples, such as Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico) but there are many other apparitions across the world that have impacted numerous cultures and enriched the lives of the faithful.

The apparition sites of Lourdes and Fatima are particularly noted for pilgrimages to their shrines. These shrines and pilgrimages have been associated with thousands of spontaneous healings, with some even being classified as "inexplicable" by the physicians of the Lourdes Bureau, a medical center set up by the Church in association with local medical institutes to assess possible miracles. Fatima is popularly known for its initial miracle of the sun and has

continued to capture the imagination of both the Catholic and secular press with the Three Secrets of Fatima.

To help with our understanding of these events, Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Encyclopedia provides some helpful distinctions for the terminology:

Apparition: The name given to various kinds of supernatural visions of heavenly beings and is frequently applied to the visions associated with Mary.

Private Revelations: This comes from a vision or communication from Mary or other heavenly beings. 'Revelation' is the body of truths found in the Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Church. Private revelations are not dogmas of faith and are open for selective acceptance and devotion of the faithful.

Messages: Often in an apparition, a message is given to the seer (the person who beholds the vision). It may be a warning about the need for prayer and penance to avert a coming war or disaster. After apparitions at Fatima, Our Lady told Sister Lucia dos Santos that a pope would be shot. This prophecy seemed to be fulfilled on May 13, 1981, when Pope St. John Paul II was shot in Rome.

Below are some examples of Marian Apparitions:

Our Lady of Akita (Japan)

Our Lady of Aparecida (Brazil)

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico) Patron Saint of

Mexico and the Americas

Our Lady of Fatima (Portugal) Also Known as

Our Lady of the Rosary

Our Lady of Kibeho (Rwanda) The only approved

Marian apparition in Africa

Our Lady of Lourdes (France)

Our Lady of Vailankanni (India)



DEVOTIONS, PRAYERS& NOVENAS

In Honor of Mary the Mother of God

Devotions

Devotion to Mary is a beautiful practice within the Catholic Church. It is a time set aside to devote oneself to prayer and to honor Mary the Mother of God. Thomas Merton, in his work Understanding Catholic Devotion to Mary, states:

The genuine significance of Catholic devotion to Mary is to be seen in the light of the Incarnation itself. The Church cannot separate the Son and the Mother. Because the Church conceived of the Incarnation as God's descent into flesh and into time, and His great gift of Himself to His creatures, she also believes that the one who was closest to Him in this great mystery was the one who participated most perfectly in the gift. When a room is heated by an open flame, surely there is nothing strange in the fact that those who stand closest to the fireplace are the ones who are warmest. And when God comes into the world through the instrumentality of one of His servants, then there is nothing surprising about the fact that His chosen instrument should have the greatest and most intimate share in the divine gift.

Devotions to Mary follow in the pattern of veneration of Saints that emerged in the Church from its beginning. The Communion of Saints, —testified to by Saint Paul's words to the Romans, that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even death (Romans 8:38), and by the Letter to the Hebrews, where we are reminded that we are surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1)--has been a core Catholic belief from the early days of the Church. The veneration of Mary stands at the center of that tradition of veneration of the

saints for, as Thomas Merton pointed out, the Holy Mother is the most venerable of that great cloud of witnesses.

Below are some devotions that should be considered for the enriching of our spiritual life in light of the year of Jubilee:

The Rosary

The Miraculous Medal

<u>The Brown Scapular</u> (A devotion in the Carmelite Tradition)

Prayers

Below are some prayers that you may find useful in growing your Marian Devotion:

The Hail Mary:

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Salve Regina:

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V- Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God R- That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



The Magnificat:

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Memorare

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.
Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Other prayers to Mary under various names:

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Dearest Lady of Guadalupe, fruitful Mother of Holiness, teach me your ways of gentleness and strength. Hear my prayer offered with deepfelt confidence to beg this favor.... O Mary, conceived without sin, I come to your throne of grace to share the fervent devotion of your faithful Mexican children who call to you under the glorious Aztec title of "Guadalupe" the virgin who crushed the serpent. Queen of Martyrs, whose Immaculate heart was pierced by seven wounds of grief, help me to walk valiantly amid the sharp thorns thrown across my pathway. Queen of Apostles aid me to win souls for the Sacred Heart of my Savior. I plead this through the merits of your merciful Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of China:

Hail, Holy Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Mother of all nations and all people. You are the special heavenly Mother of the Chinese people.

Teach us, your way of total obedience to God's will. Help us to live our lives true to our faith. Fill our hearts with burning love for God and each other. Stir up in our youth an unconditional giving of self to the service of God.

We call on your powerful intercession for peace, reconciliation, and unity among the believers, and conversion of the unbelievers in China and throughout the world, for God's mercy is our only hope.

Our Lady of China, Mother of Jesus, hear our petitions and pray for us. Amen.

Prayer to Our Mother of Africa:

Mary, Our Mother of Africa, hear the drumbeat of our prayers. May Your Son Jesus continue to bring us joy, receive our tensions, and forgive us our sins. Help us to walk in His light. Help us to help others do the same. And bring us to life everlasting with the Holy Saints and Angels. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of Vailankanni:

O Mary! Our Mother of Health and Our Heavenly Queen, seated on your throne of mercy and compassion in your Holy Shrine at Vailankanni, we praise and honor you to be our refuge and our relief. Numerous are the sick who through you have recovered health. Relying on your power and goodness, we fly to you and implore you to heal our infirmities and to obtain for us perfect health of body and soul, that we may better be able to serve you and your Divine Son. At all times you have been the help and consolation of the sick. You obtain for them health, when it is conducive to their salvation. You assist them at time of their death. Help them O Most amiable Mother and obtain for us cure from all our sufferings, or patience to endure them in the spirit of resignation agreeable to God's Holy Will, so that all our trials and sufferings may help to purify our souls and help us to detach ourselves from earthly ties. Amen.

<u>The Prayer of Pope Saint John Paul II to Our</u> Lady Star of the Sea:

Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean, guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas that they may reach the haven of peace and light prepared in Him who calmed the sea. As we set forth upon the oceans of the world and cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost. Pray that we will never fail on life's journey, that in heart and mind, word and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, 'Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?' Our Lady of Peace, pray for us! Bright Star of the Sea, guide us! Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us. Amen.

Additional Traditional Marian Prayers

Novenas

- Immaculate Conception Novena Patron Saint of the United States of America
- Our Lady Help of Christians
- Our Lady of Fatima
- Our Lady of Good Remedy
- Our Lady of Knock
- Our Lady of LaVang
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- Our Lady of Medjugorje
- Our Lady of Mercy
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Our Lady of Sorrows
- Our Lady of Tears
- Our Lady of the Assumption
- Our Lady Queen of Peace
- Our Lady Undoer of Knots

HISPANIC/LATINO MARIAN ADVOCATIONS

In Hispanic/Latino spirituality, Marian veneration and devotions celebrate Mary's spiritual motherhood of all Christians, but most carry a special focus on God reaching out through her to those who are facing difficulties, exclusion, or even death. Mary, "the mother of the One for Whom we live," as articulated by Our Lady of Guadalupe to the indigenous Saint Juan Diego, appears to bring the embrace and tenderness of Christ to the people of the Americas. A message of maternal love, protection, consolation, and



healing is at the core of the Marian experience of the people of Latin America. A profound Marian devotion has also been a mark of Latino Catholicism in the United States.

Marian advocations particular to Latin America:

- Our Lady of Luján (Argentina)
- Our Lady of Copacabana (Bolivia)
- Our Lady of Aparecida (Brazil)
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Chile)
- Our Lady of Chiquinquirá (Colombia)
- Our Lady of the Angels (Costa Rica)
- Our Lady of Charity (Cuba)
- Our Lady of Altagracia (Dominican Republic)
- Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (Ecuador)
- Our Lady of Quinche (Ecuador)
- Our Lady of Peace (El Salvador)
- Our Lady of the Rosary (Guatemala)
- Our Lady of Suyapa (Honduras)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)
- The Immaculate Conception of "El Viejo" (Nicaragua)
- Our Lady of the Old Cathedral (Panama)
- Our Lady of Miracles of Caacupé (Paraguay)
- Our Lady of La Merced (Peru)
- Our Lady of Divine Providence (Puerto Rico)
- Our Lady of the Thirty-Three (Uruguay)
- Our Lady of Coromoto (Venezuela)

