



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

# Pilgrims on the Way of Hope: A Resource for the Jubilee of the World of Education

## **Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope**

United States Conference  
of Catholic Bishops

## **Jubilee of the World of Education: Resource Packet**

October 31 - November 2, 2025

## **INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW**

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate distinct groups of people and various ministries in the Church. The Jubilee of the World of Education will be held from October 31 through November 2, 2025.

As many know, the Jubilee is a special year of grace, in which the Catholic Church offers the faithful the opportunity to reflect on their own Christian journey. It is a time in which the ongoing conversion to Christ—the foundation of the Christian life—becomes a primary focus. Toward this end, the emphasis on the sacramental life—especially the Sacrament of Penance and the reception of Holy Eucharist—become touchstones for this ongoing conversion.

The Jubilee of the World of Education includes students, teachers, and leaders who are involved in elementary, secondary, and higher education.

This resource packet is for anyone who may find it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by schools, parishes, those who are homeschooling, and those involved in the ministry of education in any way.



Additional resources for the Jubilee can be found here: available in English at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025> and in Spanish at <https://www.usccb.org/es/committees/jubileo-2025>.

## **SPIRITUAL REFLECTION**

In anticipation of the Jubilee of the World of Education, we call to mind what the Church has said of education:

*“The Catholic school forms part of the saving mission of the Church, especially for education in the faith...It is precisely in the Gospel of Christ, taking root in the minds and lives of the faithful, that the Catholic school finds its definition as it comes to terms with the cultural conditions of the times.” (The Catholic School, 9)*

At the heart of the mission of Catholic education is transmission of a vision – the vision of life in Jesus Christ. We live in times that can be confusing and distressing, as did those who have walked this road of faith in the decades



and centuries before us. Think of the great saints who lived and persisted during times of struggle—St. Joan of Arc, St. Thomas More, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. John Paul II, St. Josephine Bakhita, among others.

Their courage in the face of danger—sometimes even death—and their willingness to sacrifice for Jesus did not appear out of nowhere. This was the fruit of a friendship that they sought and formed with Christ.

During his own ministry, Jesus had two primary areas of emphasis: teaching and healing. Those who are engaged in the ministry of teaching are privileged to share in Our Lord’s own ministry.

Many have answered the call to teach in Jesus’ name, including St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Benedict, St. John Bosco, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, among many others. They came to know him through their studies—and not just their religious studies. They recognized that the beautiful, ordered cosmos points to Him in whom all things cohere. Their vocation became helping others, especially the young, to know Christ through the patterns and order of mathematics, the mysteries and properties of science, the eloquent truths of poetry and literature, and the soul-attracting beauty of art and music.

Those of us who are engaged in the work of Catholic education have taken up their work in our own time. Like them, we must find courage in the storms of our culture. We must fix our vision on Him, as the apostles did one stormy night on the Sea of Galilee.

Pope Francis has said this of Catholic education: “Education is, above all, an act of hope in those before us, in their possibilities to change and contribute to the renewal of society” (Address on Catholic Education in Spain, (February 24, 2024): Vatican News). Our Holy Father is calling us to follow the path trod by great saints, to use our education and intellect to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Our Hope!

## 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 in one’s own local area.

*If headed to Rome for the Jubilee of the World of Education:*

Should you or your school community decide to travel to Rome for the Jubilee of the World of Education, 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 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 World of Education will occur between October 31 and November 2, 2025. More information can be found here: [Jubilee of the World of Education](#).
- Pilgrims and groups may also consider additional activities, either planned on their own or events hosted by organizations, apostolates, episcopal conferences, or movements.
- Prepare in a manner similar to World Youth Day, with liturgies, retreats, devotional and service experiences, community building, catechesis, and fundraising, as needed. Take time for prayer, especially with the Blessed Sacrament.



- 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.

*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) designated by the bishop or eparch, or any local site that is important for Catholic education, to young people, or to a diocesan/eparchial saint or milestone.

- 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 young adults in Rome (around October 31 to November 2, 2025). The timing, as well as the exact local destination, is at the discretion of the local organizer(s).
- Plan a local pilgrimage for your community to the diocesan/eparchial cathedral or to another religious site or church in your area, 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 31 and November 2, 2025. You may wish to coordinate with your parish and make this part of a larger experience, perhaps with Eucharistic adoration and opportunities for confession.

- Use Catholic Schools Week 2025 to promote the Jubilee celebration. Consider including Jubilee activities in each day's theme and observance.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

### *Suggested Activities*

- Read, compare, and discuss the following parables:
  - The Parable of the Great Banquet. Luke 14:1-24 (Hope)
  - The Parable of the Sower. Matthew 13:1-9 (Education)
  - Sayings on Discipleship. Luke 25-35
- Study some of the historical Jubilee years that the Church has celebrated. Information on these can be found here: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/giubilei-nella-storia.html>. Become familiar with the people, events, and fruits of these Jubilee years; compare and contrast them with this current Jubilee year.
- Read and discuss literary tales of pilgrimages. High school students can read Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, while elementary and middle school students can read many of the prose translations for children their age.
- Read and discuss poetry centered on the theme of hope. See a few examples below:
  - "Hope" is the thing with feathers - Emily Dickinson
  - *Lift Every Voice and Sing* – James Weldon Johnson
- Show students the Raphael's Rooms at the Vatican Museum: <https://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/stanze-di-raffaello/stanze-di-raffaello.html>.



- Examine both the *School of Athens* and the *Disputation of the Holy Sacrament* and discuss what they reveal about Catholic education.

*Suggested Resources*

- [A History of the Jubilee](#), Vatican
- [The Theological Virtues](#), Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1817-1821
- [The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School](#) (Congregation for Catholic Education, 1988): Drawing from the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Education *Gravissimum Educationis*, the Congregation for Catholic Education invites schools to contemplate more deeply its religious dimension, found in the educational climate, the personal development of each student, the relationship established between the culture and the Gospel, and the illumination of all knowledge in the light of faith.
- **To Teach as Jesus Did** (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1973): This pastoral message on Catholic education outlines the themes of message, community, and service.
- **The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools** (2005), Archbishop V. Michael Miller: In 2005, the USCCB issued a statement "[Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium](#)", in which the bishops called for Catholic schools to be "truly Catholic" as well as "available, accessible, and affordable" to Catholic families. Archbishop Miller, then the Secretary for the Congregation for Catholic Education, expanded on what a "truly Catholic" school would look like.

## KEY SAINTS

- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821, feast day January 4)**, a widowed mother of five children. Her vision of a system of Catholic in which religious sisters would teach and form the young became a reality in the American church.
- **St. Katherine Drexel (1858-1955, feast day March 3)**, born into a wealthy family in Philadelphia. Drawn to the vocation of teaching, St. Katherine used her family's wealth to found schools, with a special interest in schools that would serve the Black and Native American communities.
- **St. Angela Merici (1474-1540, feast day January 27)**, founder of the Ursuline religious community and a dedicated and passionate teacher. She also recognized the need for teacher formation and established one of the first programs to provide it.
- **St. John Bosco (1815-1888, feast day January 31)**, whose joyful philosophy of education formed the basis for his approach to discipline and his desire to offer a Catholic education to those in need. His approach remains integral in many Catholic schools today.
- **St. John Baptist de la Salle (1651-1719, feast day April 7)**, a French priest and educational reformer, he founded the Christian Brothers schools. He was inspired to teach the poor and to develop teacher formation programs.



## PRAYERS

### Act of Faith

*O my God, I firmly believe  
that you are one God in three divine Persons,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
I believe that your divine Son became man  
and died for our sins and that he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe these and all the truths  
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches  
because you have revealed them  
who are eternal truth and wisdom,  
who can neither deceive nor be deceived.  
In this faith I intend to live and die.  
Amen.*

### Act of Hope

*O Lord God,  
I hope by your grace  
for the pardon of all my sins  
and after life here to gain eternal happiness  
because you have promised it  
who are infinitely powerful, faithful,  
kind, and merciful.  
In this hope I intend to live and die.  
Amen.*

### Act of Love

*O Lord God, I love you above all things  
and I love my neighbor for your sake  
because you are the highest, infinite and perfect,  
good, worthy of all my love.  
In this love I intend to live and die.  
Amen.*

Prayers excerpted from the [Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), ©  
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### A Prayer for Catholic Schools

*Almighty God,  
You sent forth your Son  
as a beacon of hope for all people.  
As a Teacher, He has given us the prime example  
of the importance of education.  
As disciples, we look to him  
for inspiration and strength.  
Thank you for the many people  
who have dedicated their lives  
in service to our Catholic Schools.  
Thank you for the teachers and administrators  
who sustain our schools.  
Thank you for the parents  
who have given support and witness  
to the importance of Catholic education.  
Thank you for the students who work hard  
to further their education.  
Bless all our Catholic Schools  
and the many people who advance our mission.  
May our schools be a home  
for those who seek to grow in openness, faith,  
love, intellect, and commitment to justice.  
In your name, we pray. Amen.*

National Catholic Educational Association

