



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Pilgrims on the Way of Hope: A Resource for the Jubilee of the Poor

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

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Jubilee of the Poor: Resource Packet

November 16, 2025

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

A Jubilee Year is an important and historical event in the life of the Church designed for the faithful to experience God's loving mercy in a special way. Traditionally, a Jubilee is proclaimed every twenty-five years, and the activities include pilgrimages, processions, special celebrations of Mass, and an invitation to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year's Jubilee theme is "Pilgrims of Hope" and it begins on Christmas Eve 2024, in Rome, and concludes the following year on the Epiphany in 2026. The Jubilee's activities are meant to encourage Catholics to both receive God's mercy and invite participation in acts of mercy in our daily lives and communities. Pope Francis specifically asks us to consider working for peace and an end to conflicts, promoting human life, showing amnesty to prisoners, upholding the dignity of migrants, healing the sick, and accompanying the elderly.

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. In the Catholic tradition, one of the ways we live out the call to discipleship is through honoring the inherent human dignity of each person. We are called to observe a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, modeling our actions on the examples seen in scripture. God's continual care for those most vulnerable in our society extends throughout salvation history and is a central tenet of the Gospel. So, in honoring the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable during the Jubilee Year, we are celebrating the dignity of each person and the contributions each person makes to this world.



The Jubilee of the Poor will be held on Sunday, November 16, 2025, which is also the ninth World Day of the Poor; however, these resources can be used at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

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



SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

The Jubilee of the Poor is an invitation to embody the spirit of Jubilee, a time to recommit ourselves to uplifting and supporting the poor and ensuring that all people can live with dignity. In the United States, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is at the forefront of this effort, supporting programs and initiatives that empower communities to overcome poverty and achieve lasting change. Supported through a national collection that occurs annually on World Day of the Poor each November, the work of CCHD allows the Church to actively participate in bringing the good news to the poor, echoing the mission of Jesus proclaimed in the synagogue, "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" (Luke 4:18-19).

Through grants to community-driven, low-income-led economic and community development initiatives, CCHD uplifts the voices of the poor and empowers them to create sustainable solutions to the challenges they face. This work reflects a deep commitment by the U.S. Church to the preferential option for the poor, a foundational principle of Catholic Social Teaching that calls us to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable and to uphold their God-given dignity. As the Catechism reminds us,

"The Church's love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition.' This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor.... 'Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members, has not ceased to work for

their relief, defense, and liberation.'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 2444, 2448, quoting Centesimus annus, no. 57, and Libertatis conscientia, no. 68)

The Jubilee of the Poor is not only an opportunity to recommit to the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, but also an invitation to take one step further into the challenge of living in true solidarity with the poor, something Pope Francis explains "means combatting the structural causes of poverty, inequality, the lack of work, land, and housing, the denial of social and labor rights. It means confronting the destructive effects of the empire of money... Solidarity, understood in its most profound meaning, is a way of making history" (*Fratelli Tutti* no. 116, quoting *Address to the Meeting of Popular Movements*).

As we anticipate the Jubilee of the Poor, this invitation to solidarity with those poor and most vulnerable in our communities is also an opportunity to support the vital work of programs like CCHD, which embodies this solidarity by addressing the root causes of poverty in communities across America. The Jubilee of the Poor is a time to renew our commitment to the Church's mission to walk with the poor and bring about transformative change. Together, we can live out the Gospel call to serve our brothers and sisters most in need, ensuring that all may experience the fullness of God's love and mercy.

PARTICIPATE IN (VIRTUAL) PILGRIMAGE OPTIONS

One major element of the Jubilee celebration for Catholics is to make a 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. A pilgrimage doesn't need to be a long journey in order to be transformational.

There is even a [virtual pilgrimage](#) that was created so people from all over the world can experience the beauty of making a pilgrimage to the sites in Rome.

It is highly recommended to make a pilgrimage to one's own diocesan or eparchial cathedral or other church(es) or religious site(s) designated by the bishop. 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 the poor (around November 16). The timing, as well as the exact local destination, is at the discretion of the local organizer(s).

SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF THE POOR LOCALLY

Suggestions for Parishes

- Use the weekend liturgies on November 16 to call attention to the situations of poverty impacting your community and the groups working to address it: in the homily, general intercessions, with a special blessing, or by inviting someone to share a personal testimony about how they have seen the impact of CCHD's work in your community. Sample Prayers of the Faithful for such a liturgy are included at the end of this resource.
- Promote and participate in the second collection supporting the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Check with your (arch)diocese to learn more about how your diocese participates in the CCHD collection and discover more information and

resources on the [CCHD website](#). When you support CCHD, you stand with people working to address the cycles of poverty across the country and in your own neighborhood, where 25% of your contribution remains in your local diocese to strengthen communities and create new opportunities for those who are living on the margins.

- Work with your [diocesan coordinator for CCHD](#) to host a speaker from a CCHD-funded organization, in-person or virtually, who can share with the parish community about the work of a local organization that receives funding from CCHD.
- Host an educational session on or around November 16th (World Day of the Poor) to learn about and discuss the Catholic Social Teaching principle on the Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. Use USCCB resources ([CST 101: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable Video](#) and Discussion Guide in [English](#) & [Spanish](#)) for this session.

Suggestions for Dioceses and Eparchies

- Celebrate a liturgy or host a prayer service honoring those working to end poverty in your local community, especially those organizations supported by a grant from the [Catholic Campaign for Human Development](#) (CCHD) on or around November 16, concurrent with the Jubilee celebrations happening in Rome and the CCHD national collection.
- Hold a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee walking pilgrimage for parishes from the cathedral (or another site of your choosing) to religious sites within the diocese. Consider choosing a path that passes by noteworthy landmarks where the dignity of the poor is being both upheld or violated. Make time to pray, celebrate, and/or lament at these locations. Consider also inviting the bishop or eparch on this journey.



- Share stories of hope featuring those working to address the root causes of poverty in your community. These stories can be shared on the diocesan or eparchial website, social media channels, and communications (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, etc.) prior to and/or during the Jubilee of the Poor in November 2025.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

- USCCB, [CST 101: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable Video](#) and discussion guide ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- USCCB, [Primer on Poverty, an Option for the Poor, and the Common Good](#)
- USCCB, [Economic Justice for All: Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy](#), 1986.
- The [Catholic Campaign for Human Development \(CCHD\)](#), is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops. The belief that those who are directly affected by unjust systems and structures have the best insight into knowing how to change them is central to CCHD. CCHD works to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities.
- [PovertyUSA](#) (and [PobrezaUSA](#)) is an initiative of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and was created as an educational resource to help individuals and communities address poverty in America by confronting the root causes of economic injustice—and promoting policies that help to break the cycle of poverty.

KEY SAINTS

Holy Companions for the Poor and those seeking to be in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable

- **St. Martin of Tours (316-397, feast day November 11)**, patron saint of the poor and soldiers. Born into a Roman military family, St. Martin is most famously remembered for cutting his cloak in half to share with a beggar during a snowstorm. This act of mercy led to his deepened faith and eventual role as Bishop of Tours, where he advocated tirelessly for the poor.
- **St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660, feast day September 27)**, patron saint of charitable societies. Renowned for his compassion and organizational skill, St. Vincent founded the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity to serve the poor. His life's work continues to inspire the Vincentian movement worldwide.
- **St. Louise de Marillac (1591-1660, feast day May 9)**, co-founder of the Daughters of Charity. Collaborating with St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac dedicated her life to the care of the sick, poor, and abandoned, creating innovative ways to bring charity to those most in need, including home visits and education programs.
- **St. John Bosco (1815-1888, feast day January 31)**, patron saint of youth and educators. Moved by the plight of poor and abandoned children in industrial Turin, St. John Bosco founded the Salesians of Don Bosco and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians to provide education, spiritual guidance, and vocational training.



- **St. Francis of Assisi (1181/1182-1226, feast day October 4)**, patron saint of the poor, ecology, and animals. Born into a wealthy family, Francis renounced his inheritance to live in poverty, embracing a life of service to the poor and preaching the Gospel. He founded the Franciscan Order, which prioritized simplicity, humility, and care for the marginalized. St. Francis remains an enduring symbol of Christ-like love and compassion.
- **St. Brigid of Kildare (ca. 451-525, feast day February 1)**, patron of the poor, farmers, and Ireland. St. Brigid, one of Ireland's most beloved saints, was renowned for her generosity and compassion toward the poor. She founded a monastery at Kildare, which became a center of prayer, education, and hospitality. Known for her miracles of multiplying food and providing for the hungry, St. Brigid's life exemplified a profound commitment to charity and care for the marginalized.
- **St. Óscar Romero (1917-1980, feast day March 24)**, martyr and advocate for the poor. As Archbishop of San Salvador, Óscar Romero became a champion for the oppressed and poor during El Salvador's civil unrest. He preached against injustice and violence, ultimately sacrificing his life while celebrating Mass. Canonized by Pope Francis in 2018, he remains a symbol of courage and faith in the face of oppression.
- **St. Mary Helen MacKillop, RSJ (1842-1909, feast day August 8)**, patron of Australia and co-founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. St. Mary MacKillop dedicated her life to the education and care of the poor, particularly in rural Australia. She co-founded the Sisters of St. Joseph, the first Australian religious order, to provide schools, orphanages, and support for the disadvantaged. Despite facing challenges, including excommunication (later lifted), Mary remained steadfast in her mission to serve the marginalized.

PRAYERS

Help Us Build Communities in God's Vision of Justice

Holy Spirit,

We praise and thank you!

You anoint us to

bring glad tidings to the poor

proclaim liberty to captives

recover sight for the blind

free the oppressed

and build communities in keeping

with God's vision of justice.

Show us how to be

light of the world

salt of the earth

seeds that sprout love

and leaven that infuses humanity

with the desire to promote

human dignity and solidarity.

Help us to listen so that

those in poverty can lead our efforts to

proclaim a more hopeful vision

liberate captives from injustice

heal the blindness of the powerful

free us all from self-centeredness

and build community to

overcome poverty.

Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe for Justice

Most merciful mother, you came to tell us of your compassion through St. Juan Diego, whom you called the littlest and dearest of your sons.

Give your strength and protection to all who live in poverty today, especially the young, elderly, and vulnerable.

Plead for them to the Father, that they might experience the Divine Love tangibly in their daily lives, and that all who work for justice on behalf of the poor might grow in fortitude and humility.



In these ways, manifest your charity and concern in our lives, that the weeping of humanity may be heard, and all our suffering, pain, and misfortune may be filled with divine comfort and healing.

May we always know the peace of being in the cradle of your arms, and bring us safely home to your son, Jesus.

Amen.

Sample Prayers of the Faithful

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, our bishop, N., and all Church leaders, that they will continue to proclaim Christ's love and compassion for the poor as they educate the Church about the need to work for justice in our world, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

For us, the People of God, that we will open our hearts and souls to Christ's love for the poor so that we will speak and act in ways that will eliminate poverty and injustice in this country and throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

For all who work to address poverty in this country, especially those supported by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and for our parish community, that all may follow Christ's example of love and solidarity with persons who are poor, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

For the over 38 million people in our country who experience the pain and suffering of poverty every day, that we may join with them to share their burden and at the same time work to create more just communities, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

For those who have lost their lives, especially those who died due to situations of poverty and injustice, that they might be welcomed into the heavenly kingdom; and for their families, that they might be comforted and find security, let us pray to the Lord. R/.

