



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

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

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

United States Conference of  
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## **Jubilee of Teenagers: Resource Packet**

April 25-27, 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 Teenagers will be held from Friday, April 25, to Sunday, April 27; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating teenagers at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it beneficial. 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 Teenagers. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for teenagers in your community.

For teenagers or ministries with teenagers 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 also serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip.



Additional resources for the Jubilee of Teenagers 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**

In anticipation of the Jubilee of Teenagers, set within a yearlong celebration of hope, we remember the words of Saint Pope John Paul II in his message to young people for the 12th World Youth Day:

*We are living in an era of great changes: the rapid decline of ideologies that seemed to promise a long resistance to the wear and tear of time; the tracing out on the planet of new confines and frontiers. Humanity often finds itself uncertain, bewildered and anxious (cf. Mt 9:36). But the word of God knows no*



*decline; throughout history and among changing events, it remains firm and gives light (cf. Mt 24:35). The faith of the Church is founded on Jesus Christ, the one Saviour of the world, yesterday and today and forever (cf. Heb 13:8). It gives Christ as reference for an answer to the questions rising up from the human heart in the face of the mystery of life and death. Only from Christ, indeed, can there be answers that do not deceive nor disappoint.*

Do not be afraid! It is in Christ that we find our hope. Romans 5:1-5 tells us, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Every age and generation of teenagers that has gone before us has been faced with challenges and struggles in this world. But do not be alarmed because we have hope in Christ Jesus! By clinging to the joy of the Gospel and the witness of Christ, we can find the strength we need to face the adversities of our age.

Let us look at the lives of the young saints who have paved the way for us like Bl. Carlo Acutis whose devotion for the Eucharist evangelized countless people from around the world or Bl. Chiara Badano who radiated joy in her sufferings at the end of her life and looked with anticipation on being united to Christ. We must reclaim this joy that has been given to us by Christ to be witnesses to the world around us.

As you celebrate this beautiful Jubilee of Teenagers, radiate your joy and love for the Lord with all those whom you interact with on the internet and in real life. Remember these words from 1 Timothy 4:12, "Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity." You are the Church of now and Christ is dwelling in you! Witness to the joy and hope that is found in Christ Jesus so the world may know the reason for your joy.

## **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.

*If headed to Rome for the Jubilee of Teenagers:*

Should you or your ministry/group/community decide to travel to Rome for the Jubilee of Teenagers (April 25-27, 2025), the following may be helpful:

- You can develop a trip on 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 website for the Jubilee of Teenagers can be found [here](#).
- Pilgrims and groups may also consider additional programs and gatherings, 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 in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Practical travel preparation will be essential, especially since the Jubilee of Teenagers in Rome is expected to draw very large crowds.
- Pilgrims should bring backpacks, comfortable shoes, appropriate spring 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 activity.

*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.

- Planning for a local pilgrimage can take place at any time of year, or it can be done at the same time as Divine Mercy Sunday when the events for teenagers in Rome will

take place (April 25-27, 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.
- 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 activity.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING TEENAGERS LOCALLY

### *Suggestions for Parishes*

- Use the weekend liturgies on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 26-27, 2025, to recognize all the teenagers in the community: in the homily, general intercessions, with a special blessing, or by inviting teenagers to serve in key liturgical roles. An example of a petition for the Prayer of the Faithful might include:

*For the teenagers in our parish community, that they be enlivened by the witness of the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis to boldly proclaim the truth of the faith to a world in desperate need of a savior. Let us pray to the Lord.*

- Host a Jubilee Eucharistic Holy Hour at your parish during Divine Mercy Sunday, inviting the teenagers to lead and witness their faith to the larger community.



- Plan a local pilgrimage for teenagers to your diocesan/eparchial cathedral or to another religious site or beautiful church in your area, using the ideas laid out in the previous section.

#### *Suggestions for Dioceses and Eparchies*

- Hold a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee walking pilgrimage for teenagers and their families from the cathedral (or another site of your choosing) to religious shrines, churches, universities/schools, and/or to a Catholic-led social services center or institution. Consider also inviting the bishop or eparch on this journey.
- Post stories about teenagers and ministry leaders accompanying teenagers on the diocesan or eparchial website, social media channels, and communications (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, etc.) prior to and/or during the Jubilee of Teenagers April 25-27, 2025.
- Host a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee gathering of teenagers with the bishop/eparch. This can be a Eucharistic Holy Hour, liturgy, dinner, meet-and-greet social, and/or a virtual event, providing teenagers across the diocese/eparchy with the opportunity to engage with their episcopal shepherd.
- Encourage all diocesan/eparchial offices and departments to feature, celebrate, or recognize teenagers during April 2025, centered around the global Jubilee celebration. This might need to be preceded by a workshop or meeting with diocesan/eparchial staff to coordinate efforts.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS**

- [Christus Vivit \(Christ is Alive\)](#), Pope Francis (2019): an apostolic exhortation to and about

young people, which was the response of the Holy Father to the 2018 Synod on “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment” and which laid a new foundation for the Catholic Church’s current work with youth and young adults. Available in print and in e-book from several Catholic publishers and online.

- [Listen, Teach, Send: A National Pastoral Framework for Ministries with Youth and Young Adults](#), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2024): the U.S. Bishops’ response to Pope Francis’ *Christus Vivit* and a summons to the Church in the United States to reinvigorate its approach to young people. The document uses the Emmaus story (Lk 24:13-25) as the inspiration to ground ministries with youth and young adults in a three-movement process: listening, teaching, and sending. Available in print from Our Sunday Visitor and online.
- [Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Youth Ministry](#), United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (1997): the U.S. Bishops’ pastoral framework provided as a blueprint for the continued development of effective ministry with youth and adolescents in local communities of faith. Available online.
- [USCCB Ministry with Youth Web Page](#), with resources for ministry with youth and links to additional content, including webinars, collaborating organizations, and more. Available online.
- [USCCB Global Celebration of Youth and Young Adults Web Page](#), with resources for the annual celebration of young people on Christ the King Sunday, including guidebooks, webinars, links, and more. Available online.
- [National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry \(NFCYM\)](#), the largest youth ministry





organization in the United States and they provide a foundation for synodal dialogue about the needs and concerns of those who minister to youth. Available online.

- [National Catholic Committee on Scouting \(NCCS\)](#), an organization serving as an advisory committee to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) that provides guidance and structure for the integration of Catholic teaching into BSA programs at parishes and Catholic schools nationwide, recognizing that Catholic scouting is a form of youth ministry. Available online.
- [National Catholic Educational Association \(NCEA\)](#), in service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, NCEA strengthens Catholic school communities by convening all stakeholders and providing professional development, data, public policy and resources to support faith and intellectual formation. Available online.
- [National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana \(LaRED\)](#), an organization nurturing the mission of PJH by incarnating the Gospel's message of love among youth and young adults in order to strengthen and further the mission of LaRED. Available online.

## KEY SAINTS & BLESSED

*Companions of Teenagers*

- **Bl. Carlo Acutis (1991-2006, feast day October 12)**, patron saint of the internet and the first millennial saint, lived a life of heroic holiness and deep devotion to the Eucharist. He built a website tracking Eucharistic miracles and evangelized his family and friends during his short life before dying from leukemia at the age of 15.
- **Bl. Chiara Badano (1971-1990, feast day October 29)**, patroness of athletes, Chiara was a member of the Focolare movement in Italy and an incredibly joyful young woman even

until her final days of life as she passed away from cancer. She is attributed with telling people not to shed tears for her as she died because she was going to Jesus.

- **St. Jose Sanchez del Rio (1913-1928, feast day February 10)**, captured in Mexico during the Cristero War, St. Jose was tortured and killed, refusing to denounce Christ, instead he proclaimed, "Vivo Cristo Rey!" He is a beautiful witness to faith amid persecution.
- **St. Dominic Savio (1842-1857, feast day March 9)**, patron saint of choirboys and juvenile delinquents, St. Dominic was a student of St. John Bosco who lived a short life of deep devotion and piety, spending hours in prayer, before dying at the age of 14 due to poor health.
- **Bl. Laura Vicuna (1891-1904, feast day January 22)** expressed a deep inner piety and devotion to the Lord after the reception of her First Communion. She died of pulmonary tuberculosis after growing weak from physical abuse suffered from her mother's boss and offered up her life for her mother's salvation on her deathbed.

## PRAYERS

### Prayer for Youth

*"Let the children come to me." (Mt. 19:14)*

*Loving Father,  
you look with compassion on all your children,  
especially those who are vulnerable.  
May we work to create a world in which every child  
has access to food, clean water, shelter, education,  
health care, and all other basic rights.  
May we teach youth about their role in working for  
peace, justice and the common good.  
May we act together to ensure that the lives and  
dignity of children everywhere can be respected.  
Amen.*



*As children of one heavenly Father we pray, "Our Father..."*

*(From USCCB handout for World Day of Peace 2012)*

### **Prayer for Students**

*Lord our God,  
in your wisdom and love  
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.  
Send your Spirit upon these students  
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.  
Grant that they may  
devote themselves to their studies  
and draw ever closer to you,  
the source of all knowledge.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
R/. Amen.*

*(USCCB Prayer for Students)*

### **Christ the King Prayer**

*Jesus Christ, King of the Universe,  
to you we turn in humble prayer.  
Look with favor upon all young adults,  
bearers of hope for the Church and the world.*

*Jesus Christ, companion of young adults,  
bless the paths of discovery and discernment,  
through times of joy and experiences of hardship,  
with the constant love and support of your Church.*

*Jesus Christ, alive in the hearts of all your people,  
grant that we may "journey together, young and  
old... to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to  
emerge, awaken prophesies and enable hope to  
blossom."*

*Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all humankind,  
open our hearts to encounter all young adults,  
to accompany and be in community together,  
and as one Church, embark upon our holy mission.*

*Jesus Christ, in the company  
of the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
graciously hear our prayer  
and be with us forevermore. Amen.*

*(Adapted from "A Prayer for Youth and Young Adults," from A National Pastoral Resource Guidebook for the Global Celebration of Young People: for the Annual Celebration of Youth and Young Adults in the United States of America on the Solemnity of Christ the King, USCCB © 2021; quotation within prayer from Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, no. 199)*

### **Pope Francis' Prayer for Young People**

*Lord Jesus... your Church turns her attention  
to all the young people in the world.  
We pray that they might boldly take charge of their  
lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things  
of life and always keep their hearts unencumbered.*

*Accompanied by wise and generous guides,  
help them respond to the call you make to each of  
them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve  
happiness. Keep their hearts open to dreaming great  
dreams and make them concerned for the good of  
others.*

*Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot  
of the Cross, to receive your Mother as a gift from You.  
May they be witnesses to your Resurrection  
and be aware that you are at their side  
as they joyously proclaim you as Lord. Amen.*

*(Adapted from "Prayer for Young People, in view of  
the forthcoming Synod of Bishops 2018: Young  
People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment" by  
Pope Francis, Libreria Editrice Vaticana © 2017)*

