

Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope

Celebrating the Holy Year 2025 Together

Diocese of Erie
May 2025



YEAR OF JUBILEE



The May Jubilee theme honors families across generations, highlighting the Holy Family as a model of faith and unity.

Welcome to the *Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope* monthly newsletter. Join us each month for ways to stay connected and to celebrate this Holy Year.

CALLED TO CONNECT

*This month we celebrate the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly, along with the care that religious sisters have provided in all these areas throughout our diocese. They continue that service today, encouraging others to join in this beautiful mission. **The Jubilee invites us to remember and reflect on the many gifts God has given us, beginning with the gift of family.***

As religious women, we have been blessed to walk with families at every stage. For over a century, sisters taught in Catholic schools and religious education programs, helping young people grow not only in knowledge but also in faith. They supported parents and grandparents in passing on the love of Jesus to new generations and extended care and dignity to the elderly through life's many transitions.

*Family is God's plan for us; it is through families that the church grows. **During this Jubilee, we honor not only the gift of family but also all who have nurtured these sacred relationships.** We are invited to celebrate their example—and to continue participating in God's loving design for one another.*

Sister Nancy Fischer, SSJ
Director of Office for Women Religious, Diocese of Erie

**Shout joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song.**

According to the Scriptures Psalm:100 1-2



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES FROM THE USCCB:

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son, to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life, he would experience its worries and its joys. We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over this family, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATIONS

Key dates:

- **May 10-11** - Jubilee of Musical Bands
- **May 12-14** - Jubilee of Eastern Churches
- **May 16-18** - Jubilee of Confraternities
- **May 30-June 1** - Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly
- **June 7-9** - Jubilee of Movements
- **June 9** - Jubilee of the Holy See

HEY, KIDS OF CHRIST!

Jubilee vocab: Confraternity - A group of Catholics who work together to serve others, grow in faith and spread God's love—like the Knights of Columbus or St. Vincent de Paul Society.



Join Luce in learning about confraternities by making a family “mission board.” On a piece of paper, create three sections: **Prayer** – choose one way your family will pray together this week (like a rosary or grace before meals); **Service** – pick one way to help someone in need (visit a neighbor, donate food, clean up a park); and

Devotion – select a saint to learn about or celebrate (like St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph or Our Lady of the Rosary). Just like a real confraternity!



St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary, the earthly parents of Jesus, model a holy family rooted in faith, love and trust in God. Joseph is honored for his humble obedience and protection, while Mary is revered for her loving discipleship and faithful “yes” to God’s will.

FAITHFUL FACTS!

The Jubilee of Musical Bands celebrates the joy and unity that music brings to the life of the church. On June 8, 2024, in one of his public addresses, Pope Francis told musicians: “Music creates harmony, thereby reaching everyone—consoling those who suffer and rekindling enthusiasm in the weary.”

LIVING THE MISSION

As we celebrate the Jubilee of Confraternities this month, we recognize the faithful witness of laypeople in groups like the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Their work brings hope to the world—how might we live this mission in our own daily lives? Through acts of charity, prayer and service, each of us can be a sign of God’s love.

