

Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope

Celebrating Together for Holy Year 2025

Diocese of Erie
December 2024



YEAR OF JUBILEE



Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican in this file photo from Dec. 8, 2015. CNS photo/Vatican Media

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

*As we prepare for this upcoming Holy Year, I want to share with you some reflections on the significance of this Jubilee Year: "Pilgrims of Hope". The Holy Father has called us to **"fan the flame of hope that has been given us"** and to help others "gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."*

*This theme underscores the commitment we have made in our own diocese to look forward after facing the challenge of pastoral planning to embrace our future with trust and faith. **As we unite during this sacred time, may our hearts be opened to the graces and blessings of this extraordinary celebration.** Whether you are making a pilgrimage to Rome or encountering the Lord in your local community, let us honor this Holy Year with a renewed sense of mission and hope.*

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The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
therefore he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
To proclaim liberty to captives,
Recovery of sight to the blind and release of prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the Lord."

~~~~~ *According to the Scriptures* Luke 4:18-19

*Lawrence T. Persico*

The Most Reverend  
Lawrence T. Persico



## JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

## CELEBRATIONS

It's a time for spiritual renewal. Explore Jubilee Mass celebrations, events and faithful ways to connect. Key dates:

- **12.24.24** - Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica of Rome
- **12.29.24** - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Diocese of Erie Opening of the Holy Year
- **10.15.25** - [Diocese of Erie Pilgrimage to Italy](#)

The Year of Jubilee has a special logo or picture (see front) that represents something. The Jubilee logo has distinct colors and meaning: **Red** symbolizes love, passion and self-sacrifice, Christ's sacrifice and his boundless love for humanity; **Orange** expresses joy, vitality, and enthusiasm, the light that illuminates the path of faith; **Green** is universally recognized as the color of hope, growth, and rebirth, and; **Blue** symbolizes faith, peace, and tranquility, evoking the sky and spirituality, and inviting contemplation and prayer.

If you could draw a logo that would symbolize what your family represents, what would it look like? Grab your crayons or markers and get creative!

## SAINT OF THE MONTH



**St. Jude** is the patron saint of hope and impossible causes. As one of Jesus' original twelve Apostles, he preached the Gospel with great passion, often in the most difficult circumstances.

## FAITHFUL FACTS!

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first jubilee, also known as a "Holy Year," since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us.

## LIVING THE MISSION

In announcing the 2025 Holy Year, Pope Francis said, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us." (Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022). **In what ways can you take this opportunity to celebrate your faith and the faith of others?**

## HEY, KIDS OF CHRIST!

