

Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

# The Beacon

DECEMBER 2024



## Pilgrims of Hope



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[wearelighthouse.ca](http://wearelighthouse.ca)

# The Beacon



Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (John 8:12)'. He draws every person to himself: to experience in him unimaginable love, unconditional mercy, and peace which flows from the heart. When we bask in that light long enough, we become like him. He says to his disciples, 'You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)'. We become like the 'light' and Jesus sends us out to be light for others, drawing them closer to Christ through our own witness of life.

We have come to understand that our new Family of Parishes' Vision and Core Values serve as a 'Lighthouse' of Jesus. He is using us as his humble servants, and this simple invitation - to call everyone to Christ. Each person is able to experience his life not only in our present life, but also in eternal life.

Saint Patrick Parish, Lucan and Holy Family Parish, London (Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes) is obediently responding to Jesus' great commission 'to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching [all] to obey everything that [he] has commanded' (Matthew 28:19-20).

**Come and allow yourselves to be drawn by Jesus, the Light. Find in him what you can find nowhere else, and in no one else. Come and see for yourselves!**

## What is The Beacon?

Jesus invites us to be Beacons of Hope. We do this by sharing our stories of how we are being transformed by encountering Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Beacon is how we are sharing the stories of transformation from members of our community.

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We are building a team of talented and passionate people who have a desire to help prepare our publications, including The Beacon.

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**Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes**





# IN THIS ISSUE

**05**

## **WE ARE CALLED TO BE BEACONS OF HOPE**

Fr. Thom shares his message  
for this issue

**06**

## **BISHOP FABBRO'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**08**

## **PRAISING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**

Prayer Night London  
presented by  
Praise & Promises

**09**

## **GIVE THANKS FOR THE BEACONS OF HOPE IN YOUR LIFE**

Fr. Matthew shares a story  
from WYD 2002

**10**

## **HOPE! GIVING IT TO OURSELVES AND OTHERS**

Tim shares a message of  
gratitude

**11  
– 14**

## **SIGNS OF HOPE**

Stories and quotes of where  
we see signs of hope in our  
community and world today

**15  
– 18**

## **HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT**

What is the Jubilee Year and  
how can we live it out

**19**

## **PARISH PAGE**

Contact us!

## OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for bringing us together as a Family of Parishes, called to be a light for the world.

We thank you for giving us a vision to become an invitational community of disciple-making disciples, who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do.

May we rely on the Holy Spirit to inspire us to love the Scriptures, to share our faith stories, to foster right relationships, and to be warm-hearted.

We entrust our Family of Parishes to the care of Our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, the Holy Family, and Saint Patrick, as we work together to bear witness to our core values, and to become the people you desire us to become.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

*Amen.*

## INTERPRETIVE KEY TO OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES LOGO

The cosmic Christ shines throughout the universe to every land and to every person

The gold band reminds us of our 'Communion in Christ' embracing Saint Patrick & Holy Family Parishes. It also speaks to us of the gift of the Eucharist

Turbulent seas surround the base of the Lighthouse – never to be overcome by them.

Jesus is the light of the world; reaching out first, to those who have not yet encountered Jesus Christ; second, to those whose Christian faith has grown cold or who are lost; and finally, to those who struggle to live faith wholeheartedly.

So here we are with these Core Values

Symbols of Jesus as the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End of all, sit on top of the Lighthouse

The stripes on the Lighthouse refer to the formation path of disciples, up toward Christ. The path equips the saints for ministry

The base of the Lighthouse is open. Everyone is invited to enter on the path of encounter and formation as disciples

**Jesus is our Light, our Lighthouse.**





FROM THE PASTOR

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FR. THOM BLONDIN, PASTOR  
Saint Patrick, Lucan and Holy Family, London Parishes  
Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes



## We are called to be Beacons of Hope

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "...plans to give you hope and a future."*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

The Jubilee Year 2025 has as its theme Pilgrims of Hope. I remember when I hiked the Camino de Santiago in Spain in 2010 that I was referred to by the locals as a "pellegrino" – a pilgrim, wanderer, or traveler. As I hiked the 800-kilometre trek I often found myself reflecting not only on where I was going, but, also, where I had been. It was only in reflecting on where I had been that I was able to look forward to where I was going. What I mean by this is that often, as I reflected on where I had been, I would ask myself the question, "How did I ever get through that?" or "What gave me the strength or audacity to overcome this or that?" It was only in asking these questions that I came to the realization that the "how" was through the Holy Spirit and the "what" wasn't even a "what" but a "who"! Jesus!

This helped me look forward to where I was going because it gave me the security of knowing that **God had a plan and was with me every step of the way**. So why fear what lies ahead or the future? The trail ahead of me became an exciting adventure only when I looked at the trail behind me – an adventure filled with hope and confidence in God's grace.

As a Family of Parishes, our Vision – *The Lighthouse* – includes five Core Values, one being **Beacons of Hope**. I believe it is the power of the Holy Spirit that has brought the theme of the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", together with our Core Value, Beacons of Hope, which implores us to share our story of how God has and is transforming us. It behooves us, I believe, to reflect on where we have been and how our Lord has transformed these past moments into times of grace. And, again, it is in looking at this that we can see how God is transforming us now and have confidence that He will continue to do so in the future.

Please share your story!

*Fr. Thom Blondin*

# Bishop Fabbro's 2024 Christmas Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our Advent journey as a Diocese has been a time of grace preparing us to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Traditionally at Christmas, the joy of our encounter with Jesus overflows in gatherings, meals, and activities with family and friends. We are especially aware of those most in need in our communities and our hearts reach out to them in acts of charity.

As I look back over the past year, I thank God for the many blessings I have witnessed. There are so many signs of hope in our Diocese. Mass counts in our Families of Parishes in all parts of the Diocese continue to increase. Many of our youth and young adults are expressing a desire to know Jesus and deepen their relationship with him.

I am impressed with the generosity of families and groups in the Diocese who are involved in their local communities assisting those who are poor and living on the margins. Our parishes are sponsoring refugees who come from across the world seeking safety and a new life in Canada. These are the seeds of the Gospel bearing fruit in our world today.

This year, our celebration of Christmas will lead us into Jubilee Year 2025. The theme of the Jubilee is *Pilgrims of Hope*. The tradition of jubilee years can be traced back to the Book of Leviticus. Occurring every 50 years (every seventh Sabbath year), they were a sacred time for the people and the land to rest, to seek God's mercy, to forgive debts and to free prisoners. Like the Sabbath, a jubilee year was a time to cultivate right relationships with God, with others and with the earth.

The Holy father's Jubilee prayer refers to the grace that reawakens in us "a yearning for the treasures of heaven." It states: "May that same grace spread

the joy and peace of our redeemer throughout the earth." The prayer is an urgent plea on our part that Christ bring peace in a world that continues to see too much war and too many displaced people.

To launch the Jubilee Year in our Diocese, I will celebrate a special Mass at Saint Peter's Cathedral at 11:00 a.m. on

Sunday, December 29, the Feast of the Holy Family. That Sunday, a Mass will be celebrated at all the Families of Parishes across the Diocese. I invite the faithful of the Diocese to participate in

these Masses which will unite us spiritually with Pope Francis and the universal Church as we, Pilgrims of Hope, begin the Jubilee.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and assure you of my prayers. Let us join together in asking Our Heavenly Father, "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."

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

+ Ronald Fabbro, CSB

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Bishop of London





## PROFILE – DEACON JIM VAN LANEN



Deacon Jim is part of the preaching team for our Family of Parishes. You can watch recordings of his homilies on our YouTube channel.



Born in 1961, Deacon Jim grew up with three sisters on a farm across from the former Ford plant in Talbotville near St. Thomas. He and his wife Bonnie have two sons and five daughters. Deacon Jim was ordained November 18, 2023.

### 'There is hope in knowing that Jesus is in charge'

**Nikita Fonseca**

**Nikita Fonseca:** Can you share about your background and how you felt called to serve as a deacon?

**Deacon Jim:** I was born into a Catholic family and was always part of the church. It was upon attending a COR (Christ in Others) retreat in high school, that I had a sense that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist, during adoration. I went to Fanshawe for electronics, during which time I was involved in arranging retreats and became a part of a few ministries, and even met my wife Bonnie. Afterward, I saw an advertisement about being a deacon, and joined the ministry.

**NF:** What brings you joy and excitement about joining our Family of Parishes?

**DJ:** The two parishes (Saint Patrick Parish, Lucan and Holy Family Parish, London) have their own unique gifts. I am familiar with the Saint Patrick community and my kids grew up there. Holy Family Parish is very alive and vibrant, with different faith-filled cultures. I am happy to serve as a deacon, and ever grateful for the support I receive. I look forward to getting to know as many people as I can.

**NF:** How do you hope to keep contributing to our community through your ministry, and how do you see yourself collaborating with parishioners in the future?

**DJ:** I see it as a sense of companionship -- through helping new parents in Baptism preparations, I can relate to them on being parents. Through my ministry of charity at hospices, I experience the sharing of faith stories and experiences, I feel like letting them tell their stories at the end of their life, journeying with - and comforting them, is the best way I can help them.

**NF:** The Lighthouse symbolizes guidance and hope; what personal experience or message of hope would you like to share with our community as we journey together?

**DJ:** There is hope in knowing that Jesus is in charge, and will make things all right in the end. I encourage us to trust and pray -- in hope that it'll all work out.

**NF:** How do you like to spend your free time, and what hobbies or interests do you hope to continue or explore in your new role?

**DJ:** I enjoy spending time with my family, camping with my wife and simply spending time outdoors. I hope to learn musical instruments after I retire. 🎵

# PRAYER NIGHT LONDON

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF WE PRAYED?  
TOGETHER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

PRESENTED BY

PRAISE & PROMISES



## Rachael Wright

Last month, I had the privilege of helping coordinate and participate in a youth and young adult prayer night within our family of parishes. It was a night in preparation for the launch of the new Alpha Youth series. The night's focus, through worship, fellowship and prayer, was to pray for the current and future generations of young people.

Not only was the night for young people but it was also led by young people, from the planning, setup and media to praise and worship music and prayer teams. I was very pleased with our attendance from both youth and young adults from around the city of London. It was such an incredible night, and I could truly feel that the *Holy Spirit was present* with us and every person in attendance.

Being able to lead worship with the very talented young people from our Praise and Worship Band and looking out into the pews, it was amazing to see each person fully engaged in prayer and worship.

During the night, prayer teams (of youth and young adults) were available to pray with individuals. Throughout our time in the church, it amazed me how busy the prayer teams were throughout the night.

After this night of prayer, I have *so much hope* for our current and future generations of young people.

Through the various other youth and young adult events I witness regularly within our family of parishes; it brings me immense joy to see how passionate the youth and young adults are about their Catholic Christian faith.

I have hope that with the next generation so devoted to Christ, through His love, we will make a difference in our world. I want to acknowledge the amazing team of young people within our family of parishes who make events like these happen and the amazing young disciples of Christ who always show up, eager to grow their faith. 🙏





# Give thanks for the Beacons of Hope in your life

FR. MATTHEW SAWYER

Pilgrims gather for the concluding Mass at World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto – Sunday, July 28, 2002

We often find hope in the places we least expect it. When I was 10, I had the opportunity to travel to Toronto for the final Mass of World Youth Day in 2002. We left my home parish around 10pm and got to the bus drop-off around midnight.

As excited pilgrims we took off on foot, following our group leader to the airfield (Downsview Park) where the final Mass would be. We walked and walked and walked, the trip seemed endless.

Finally, a police officer stopped us and told us if we were looking for World Youth Day, we were going in the wrong direction. That officer was a Beacon of Hope for us in that moment. We then took off in the opposite direction, eventually getting to the airfield, albeit much later than we wanted.

Our journey of faith can be a lot like my walk to mass at WYD in Toronto. We start off full of excitement, but if we aren't careful, we can get pulled in the wrong direction, we can get tired and weary and feel like giving up.

## What is World Youth Day (WYD)?

WYD is an event for the youth organized by the Catholic Church that was initiated by Saint John Paul II in 1985. For the first celebration of WYD in 1986, bishops were invited to schedule an annual youth event to be held every Palm Sunday in their dioceses. Nicknamed "The Catholic Woodstock", it is celebrated at the diocesan level annually—in most places on Palm Sunday from 1986 to 2020, and from 2021 on Christ the King Sunday—and at the international level every two to three years at different locations. The next international gathering will be in South Korea in 2027.

Who are the Beacons of Hope in your life? Who are people that point you in the right direction and encourage you along your walk of faith?

This Christmas season, reflect on those people, and offer a prayer of gratitude for them. We all need encouragement and help from time to time. The journey may be full of twists and turns, but the destination is always worth it.

The Final Mass celebrated by Saint John Paul II, with 800,000 of my Catholic brothers and sisters, was worth the hassle to get there and the life of grace God has in store for us, is well worth our own difficult walk.

Trust that God will give us those Beacons of Hope in our own lives and ask for the blessing of being a Beacon of Hope for someone who might need a helping hand of their own.



Hundreds of thousands of young people gathered at World Youth Day 2002 - for Saint John Paul II and Jesus

photos from Salt + Light Media ([slmedia.org/blog/remember-15-years-ago](https://slmedia.org/blog/remember-15-years-ago))

TIM FIRTH

# HOPE!

Giving it to ourselves and others...

The Lord has blessed us with an outpouring of generosity and gift sharing! An appeal was made for the support of two refugees, who have fled war torn Syria with the **hope** of a better life in Canada. You responded in such a warm-hearted way, that we have exceeded our sponsorship goal as set out by the government of Canada! We had donations that ranged from four twenty-five cent coins (that were placed in an envelope with some very colourful drawings) to a share sale donation that totaled \$15,000! It was our **hope** that you would respond, and you did. Thank you! We will keep you informed about a potential arrival date for Asper and Abdo.

Our Offertory giving and special donations have increased as well, and we are pleased to report...that there is **hope**! We will publish actual financial results separately once we've completed our November analysis for the Family of Parishes. (I can share that Saint Patrick broke-even in November!)

Your Finance Council, along with the Senior Leadership Team, continue to examine ways in which we can provide the resources our Family of Parishes needs in order provide **hope** for us all to be continuously focused on Lighthouse Living, and, ways in which we can continue to “become an invitational community of disciple-making disciples who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do.”

You, the parishioners, are the ones that provide those resources for us to shape. They don't come from anywhere else.

Your continued and increasing support makes our hope a reality. 🙏

*Merry Christmas*

*Tim Firth*  
Mission Support Team Lead





# SIGNS OF HOPE: Jansen Christmas Toy Drive

Our 10th annual Jansen Christmas Toy Drive was a success, and we have our parishioners to thank! Our Holy Family Parish drop-zone donation box was overflowing each and every week. Our collection phase raised well over 10,000 toys, books, games, stuffed animals, and hygiene products. Thank you!

We collectively helped more than 1,500 children in London have a Merry Christmas and we couldn't have done any of it without you.



Volunteers for the Jansen Family Toy Drive, including Olivia Jansen, second from left, and Jacob Jansen, right, help organize toy and blessing bags to be given to more than 1,500 children in London.



Our receiving children belong to four elementary schools, two shelters, two community drop-in centres, one church community, and one food hamper program. Each child received an overstuffed toy bag and blessing bag.

As one of the countless thank you notes received said, "I really wanted that Barbie and thank you for the hair shampoo."

From our family, the countless volunteers and donors, we wish you a very Merry Christmas! 🎄

Love from the Jansen Family -- Meghan, Garth, Jacob, Olivia



Warm-Hearted

# SOCIETY of SAINT VINCENT de PAUL: Sharing hope with those in need



*Apostle in a Top Hat* is the story of Frederic Ozanam who was named the “apostle of charity.” This Christmas season the parish community of Holy Family has emulated the work of Frederick Ozanam and has given much in support of the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP).

We are grateful for the support of the parish and for the many blessings we have been able to share with 189 families, 286 adults and 183 children.

We recognize that the fruit of our labours spring not from ourselves but especially from God and the individual we serve.

Over and over not only were thanks received but we have also the gift of multiple blessings. For many years the Giving Trees have stood as symbols of the work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Thank you for your continued support of our work and of the hope we have for the many clients we serve. 🙏

**Sharon Wright-Evans**  
**Holy Family Conference**  
**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**





# *Signs of* **HOPE**



## BEACONS OF HOPE IN TODAY'S WORLD



We asked parishioners who belong to different groups in our family of parishes what gives them hope, where they see signs of hope and how we can become **Beacons of Hope**

### What gives me Hope?

- Knowing God loves me even though I may not love myself at times. (*Mary*)
- Learning more about Scripture and realizing all the answers for how to live through challenging times are in the Bible. (*Dora*)
- Knowing Jesus as my personal Saviour, redeemer, deliverer. (*Antoinette*)
- The peace, joy and love that Jesus has for us all. (*Rolf*)
- My hope lies in the fact that I will see the face of Jesus. (*Hélène*)
- That good people are remaining focused on doing good despite the evil in the world. (*Dale*)
- Seeing the generosity of everyone at Christmas time. (*Heather*)
- My Life Group, joy, reading the Bible. (*Lydia*)
- Love. (*Rosalie*)
- Human kindness. (*Sylvia*)
- Love and strength from family and community. (*D.P.*)
- Knowing that Jesus loves me as I am. (*Barb P*)
- My relationship with the Lord. (*Delyse*)
- The glory of God. (*Sylvia*)
- Words from the Bible, prayer, my church, my Life Group. (*Lydia*)
- God is merciful and loving and one day there will be no more tears and sorrows. (*Deanna*)
- The laughter of children and joy in their eyes. (*Andrew*)
- My children and grandchildren, those devoted to servitude, the kindness of the homeless, the generosity of people over the holidays. (*Colleen*)
- Jesus is still in charge and our Lighthouse gives me hope. (*Loretta*)
- God's love for me for everyone and His power. (*Sharon*)

## What gives me Hope?

*(Answers from youth aged 13 to 18 taking part in Praise & Promises monthly gatherings)*

### Our Parish

- In our parish every Sunday as I watch Mass attendance grow. The more our population grows, so does my hope
- Through more high school and young people helping the parish through hospitality, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and altar serving ministry.
- I see many events that invoke hope here at church like Praise & Promises, and my friends have been trying to show hope through helping others.
- I see groups of youth, like Praise & Promises, who are filled with hope in Jesus.
- At church because people are always so kind.
- Seeing people serving with hospitality at Mass.



### Community

- When we sing at retirement homes for the elderly and disabled.
- Through people doing community service – fundraisers, food bank, giving back to the community, through people showing hospitality toward others.
- When people give love to others no matter what.
- Christmas charity such as the Jansen Family Toy Drive.

### School

- I see hope by how many people show up to pray the rosary in our chapel at school.
- Through our chaplaincy team.
- At my school during praying the rosary at lunch in the chapel.
- When our school comes together as a community to donate to the people in need.
- At school for our food drives.

## How can we be Beacons of Hope?

*(Answers from youth aged 13 to 18 taking part in Praise & Promises monthly gatherings)*

- When I volunteer on the streets for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. There are people who have virtually nothing and yet give up things that they don't have so others can enjoy them.
- Being kind to others.
- Doing a kind or thoughtful gesture to a family member, friend or anyone in general.
- Volunteering to help out.
- Spreading the holiday spirit.
- Promoting the faith in our school.
- Visiting the elderly, being charitable, and encouraging others.
- When people (students) come together to help one another.
- Doing good actions to those in need to show hope there will be change.



# PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Embracing the Jubilee Year 2025

**Nikita Fonseca**

As we anticipate the upcoming Jubilee Year 2025, proclaimed by Pope Francis under the theme Pilgrims of Hope, our parish community is invited to reflect on this extraordinary moment of grace and renewal. Starting this Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, the Jubilee Year opens with the symbolic act of the Holy Door being unsealed at Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City - calling all the faithful to begin their spiritual pilgrimage.

## A Brief History of Jubilee Years

The tradition of the Jubilee has ancient biblical roots. In the Old Testament, the Jubilee year, celebrated every 50 years, was a time of liberation, forgiveness, and renewal (Leviticus 25). It was marked by the freeing of slaves, the forgiveness of debts, and the restoration of land to its original owners - a reflection of God's justice and mercy.

In the Catholic Church, the Jubilee tradition was introduced in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII and is now celebrated every 25 years. It serves as a sacred time for the faithful to receive special blessings, seek reconciliation, and grow in the faith. Central to each Jubilee is the act of pilgrimage, where the faithful travel to Holy Doors in major basilicas, symbolizing their spiritual journey towards Christ.



## What Makes the 2025 Jubilee Special

Pope Francis has chosen the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" to inspire the global Church during this Jubilee Year. In a world often weighed down by division, uncertainty, and suffering, this theme reminds us that hope remains steadfast and unshakable when rooted in Christ.

Through his apostolic letter *Spes non confundit* ("Hope does not disappoint"), Pope Francis invites us to renew our trust in God's promises and to become living witnesses of hope. This Jubilee is not just about individual renewal; it is also about coming together as a Church to reflect God's love, mercy, and compassion to the world.

## How Can We Participate?

Our parish can embrace the Jubilee spirit in several ways:

- **Pilgrimage:** Visit designated Holy Doors, either in our diocese or other pilgrimage sites, as an outward sign of our spiritual journey towards renewal.
- **Sacraments:** Engage deeply with the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist to fully receive the graces of the Jubilee.
- **Acts of Mercy:** Practice corporal and spiritual works of mercy, showing God's love to the poor, lonely, and marginalized in our community.
- **Prayer and Reflection:** Dedicate time for personal and communal prayer, meditating on the theme of hope, and asking how we can embody this virtue in our daily lives.

## A Call to Journey Together

The Jubilee Year 2025 is an invitation to all of us to rediscover the power of hope and the joy of walking together as pilgrims of faith. Let us prepare our hearts to enter this sacred time with openness and humility,

embracing the opportunities for transformation that it brings. May our community reflect the light of Christ to the world, living as true ambassadors of hope.

***Together, as Pilgrims of Hope, let us journey onward in faith!***





## The Holy See

### LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS FOR THE JUBILEE 2025 \*

The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church. Ever since 1300, when Boniface VIII instituted the first Holy Year – initially celebrated every hundred years, then, following its biblical precedent, every fifty years, and finally every twenty-five years – God’s holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas. Down the centuries, millions upon millions of pilgrims have journeyed to these sacred places, bearing living witness to the faith professed in every age.

The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 ushered the Church into the third millennium of her history. Saint John Paul II had long awaited and greatly looked forward to that event, in the hope that all Christians, putting behind their historical divisions, could celebrate together the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity. Now, as the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable the Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness. A significant step on this journey was already taken with the celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which allowed us to appreciate anew all the power and tenderness of the Father’s merciful love, in order to become, in our turn, its witnesses.

In the last two years, not a single country has been unaffected by the sudden outbreak of an epidemic that made us experience first-hand not only the tragedy of dying alone, but also the uncertainty and fleetingness of existence, and in doing so, has changed our very way of life. Together with all our brothers and sisters, we Christians endured those hardships and limitations. Our churches remained closed, as did our schools, factories, offices, shops, and venues for recreation. All of us saw certain freedoms curtailed, while the pandemic generated feelings not only of grief, but also, at times, of doubt, fear and disorientation. The scientific community quickly developed an initial remedy that is gradually permitting us to resume our daily lives. We are fully confident that the epidemic will be

overcome and that the world will return to its usual pattern of personal relationships and social life. This will happen more readily to the extent that we can demonstrate effective solidarity, so that our neighbours most in need will not be neglected, and that everyone can have access to scientific breakthroughs and the necessary medicines.

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity. Here I think in particular of the many refugees forced to abandon their native lands. May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. As the Bible teaches, “The sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; for your cattle also, and for the beasts that are in your land, all its yield shall be for food” (Leviticus 25.6-7).

The spiritual dimension of the Jubilee, which calls for conversion, should also embrace these fundamental aspects of our life in society as part of a coherent whole. In the realization that all of us are pilgrims on this earth, which the Lord has charged us to till and keep (cf. Genesis 2.15), may we never fail, in the course of our sojourn, to contemplate the beauty of creation and care for our common home. It is my hope that the coming Jubilee Year will be celebrated and experienced with this intention too. Growing numbers of men and women, including many young people and children, have come to realize that care for creation is an essential expression of our faith in God and our obedience to his will.

To you, dear Brother\*, I entrust responsibility for finding suitable ways for the Holy Year to be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope, and active charity. The Dicastery charged with

promoting the new evangelization can help make this season of grace a significant stimulus to the pastoral outreach of the particular Churches, both Latin and Eastern, which are called in these years to intensify their commitment to synodality. In this regard, our pilgrimage towards the Jubilee will express and confirm the shared journey that the Church is called to make, in order to be ever more fully a sign and instrument of unity in harmonious diversity. It will be important to foster a renewed awareness of the demands of the universal call to responsible participation by enhancing the charisms and ministries that the Holy Spirit never ceases to bestow for the building up of the one Church. The four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, together with the Magisterium of these recent decades, will continue to provide direction and guidance to God’s holy people, so that it can press forward in its mission of bringing the joyful proclamation of the Gospel to everyone.

As is customary, the Bull of Indiction, to be issued in due course, will contain the necessary guidelines for celebrating the Jubilee of 2025. In this time of preparation, I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great “symphony” of prayer. Prayer, above all else, to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and to adore him. Prayer, moreover, to thank God for the many gifts of his love for us and to praise his work in creation, which summons everyone to respect it and to take concrete and responsible steps to protect it. Prayer as the expression of a single “heart and soul” (cf. Acts 4.32), which then translates into solidarity and the sharing of our daily bread. Prayer that makes it possible for every man and woman in this world to turn to the one God and to reveal to him what lies hidden in the depths of their heart. Prayer as the royal road to holiness, which enables us to be contemplative even in the midst of activity. In a word, may it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God’s grace and to make the “Our Father,” the prayer Jesus taught us, the life programme of each of his disciples.

I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to accompany the Church on the journey of preparation for the grace-filled event of the Jubilee, and to you and your co-workers, with gratitude, I cordially send my Blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 February 2022  
Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes.*

*Franciscus*

\* Letter written to Msgr. Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization



## LET US PRAY...

On January 21, 2024, Pope Francis announced a Year of Prayer ahead of the 2025 Jubilee, calling on the faithful “to pray more fervently to prepare ourselves to live properly this grace-filled event and to experience the power of hope in God.”

The Year of Prayer, the Holy Father explained, is dedicated “to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world.”



Pick up your prayer card in the narthex today  
or go online: [dol.ca/jubilee-2025](https://dol.ca/jubilee-2025)







## LET US PRAY...

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.



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WAYS TO GIVE



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*Hope*  
does not  
disappoint!



**“Hope does not  
disappoint us,  
because God’s  
love has been  
poured into our  
hearts through the  
Holy Spirit that has  
been given to us.”**

(Romans 5.5)