


MOST REVEREND
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To: Clergy, Religious, and Faithful of the Diocese of Biloxi

From: Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman, III 
Bishop of Biloxi

Date: January 15, 2025

Re: Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025

According to tradition, the Holy Father proclaims a Jubilee every 25 years. During this Holy Year, *pilgrims of hope* will travel to Rome and other worldwide locations designated by Pope Francis as pilgrimage sites. For those who are unable to travel to Rome, the Holy Father has designated Cathedrals as pilgrimage locations and has charged bishops with designating other locations to allow the faithful to participate in the graces and mercy of the Jubilee Year.

Therefore, in addition to the *Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary* and the *Marian Chapel*, I hereby designate *Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, Bay St. Louis*; *Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hattiesburg*; *Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, Pascagoula*; *Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine at St. Paul Chapel, Pass Christian*; and *Our Lady of La Vang shrine at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Biloxi*; as “sacred places of welcome and privileged spaces for the rebirth of hope” during the Jubilee Year.

There are three ways to receive the **Jubilee Indulgence** seen as a gift of grace specific to this holy year. With all three, the faithful must, in a spirit of charity

- Be purified by the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
 - Be refreshed by Holy Communion,
 - Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis (the usual prayers offered for the intentions of the Holy Father are one *Our Father* and one *Hail Mary*), and
1. Make a pious pilgrimage: visit one of the sacred Jubilee sites worldwide designated by Pope Francis or by visiting the cathedral or sacred site designated by Bishop Kihneman. While visiting the sacred site, the pilgrim devoutly participates in Holy Mass (not an obligatory Mass); a celebration of the Word of God; Liturgy of the Hours (office of readings, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer); Stations of the Cross; the Rosary; or Penance Service (Rite of Penance form II), or

2. Make a Pious Visit to Sacred Places: visit any of the Jubilee sites and engage in Eucharistic Adoration and meditation for a suitable period of time (holy hour, if possible) concluding with the *Our Father*, the *Profession of Faith*, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.
 - a. For those unable to make a pilgrimage of pious visit to one of the sacred sites (elderly, disabled, imprisoned...) they can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence under the same conditions if united in spirit with the faithful taking part in person (especially if participating virtually) and they recite the *Our Father*, *Profession of Faith*, and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year in their homes or wherever they are confined, or

3. Through Works of Mercy and Penance: carry out works of charity or mercy more frequently, especially the corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. In this way the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, those in need or in difficulty (sick, prisoners, lonely elderly people, disabled people ...) – making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them according to the usually spiritual, sacramental, and prayer conditions already mentioned. The faithful can repeat these visits throughout the year, even daily, acquiring a plenary indulgence each time.

The indulgence can also be obtained through a spirit of penance: the penitential nature of Friday can be rediscovered through abstaining, at least once a week, from futile distractions (real and virtual), unnecessary consumption, making proportionate donations to the poor, supporting and defending life in all its phases and the quality of life of the vulnerable, and dedicating time to serving the community with personal commitment.

THE 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.

“Spes non confundit, Hope does not disappoint”