



## Diocese of St. Paul

### JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

December 4, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of St. Paul:

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis proclaimed, through the Papal Bull of Indiction "*Spes non confundit* – Hope does not disappoint", the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". The Jubilee Year will open on Sunday, December 29, 2024 and close on Sunday, December 28, 2025.

According to ancient tradition, a Jubilee is declared every 25 years by the Pope. During this Holy Year, the intent is that we experience "a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus"<sup>1</sup>, so as to re-establish our relationship with God and one another. Our world continues to be impacted by turmoil such as the ongoing wars, poverty, refugees seeking safety. However, despite these, we need to recognize all the good that exists around us, throughout the world, and especially to hold on to the beauty of grace given to us in Christ. This Jubilee Year offers us "an opportunity to be renewed in hope, to discover hope"<sup>1</sup> and to be Pilgrims of Hope.

**The Pilgrimage:** One of the main events of a Jubilee is a pilgrimage. "A pilgrimage is an experience of conversion, of transforming one's very being to conform it to the holiness of God".<sup>2</sup> In the Papal Bull, Pope Francis states: "My thoughts turn to all those pilgrims of hope who will travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year and to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter and Paul, will celebrate it in their local Churches".<sup>1</sup> We are therefore invited to take part in a pilgrimage which can take place in our diocese, our province, our country and/or by going to shrines in different countries. There are different forms of pilgrimages: i.e.: travelling to the Rome and stopping at the (4) Holy Doors, visiting different shrines in Canada, and if unable to travel, join us spiritually where people gather to pray, to read and to reflect upon Scripture. In our Diocese, the St. Paul Cathedral is the designated sacred Jubilee site. We know that not everyone can travel far distances. However, there are pilgrimages that take place near us: the Skaro Pilgrimage (August 14-15, annually), the Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage (July 19-24, 2025). When travelling outside of our Diocese, check out what Jubilee 2025 events are available in the communities you may be visiting.

**In our Diocese, on January 23, 2025, relics of the Canadian Martyrs (St. Jean de Brebeuf, St. G. Lalemant, St. C. Garnier) and of St. Kateri will be coming to the St. Paul Cathedral, for people to come and venerate.** Consider making it a pilgrimage to the St. Paul Cathedral to visit and pray with the relics of the Canadian Martyrs and of St. Kateri. (More details will be provided after Christmas.) The relics are from the Martyr's Shrine in Midland, ON.

In Canada, there are several shrines that one can visit: l'Oratoire St. Joseph/Saint Joseph's Oratory (Montreal, QC), le Sanctuaire Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré (St. Anne de Beaupré, QC), Notre Dame du Cap/Our Lady of the Cape Sanctuary (Trois-Rivières, QC), Ermitage Saint-Antoine/St. Anthony's Hermitage (Lac-Bouchette, QC), the Martyrs' Shrine (Midland, ON), Bishop Velychkovsky Martyr's Shrine (Winnipeg, MB). <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/the-ordinary-jubilee-of-the-year-2025/canadas-national-shrines/>

**"The Jubilee Indulgence**, thanks to the power of prayer, is intended in a particular way for those who have gone before us, so that they may obtain full mercy. It is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy".<sup>2</sup> To obtain the Jubilee Indulgence, the faithful must go to Confession, receive Holy Communion and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. One can obtain a plenary indulgence by going on a pilgrimage, visiting Sacred Places and doing works of mercy and penance. (See the document: "Catechetical Resource on Plenary Indulgences during the Jubilee Year")



## Diocese of St. Paul

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has created excellent faith development resources to assist us as we reflect on the Jubilee Year. These resources explore the six themes of the Papal Bull "*Spes non Confundit*" and have been prepared for different age groups:

**\*Adult Faith Resources:** <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/the-ordinary-jubilee-of-the-year-2025/cccb-adult-faith-resources-on-the-jubilee-year-2025/>

**\*Children and Youth Catechetical Resources:** <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/the-ordinary-jubilee-of-the-year-2025/catechetical-activities-for-children-and-youth/>

These resources can be used in your parishes, in your Catholic schools and even at summer camps for the youth. The CCCB has several links where you can access different resources: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/the-ordinary-jubilee-of-the-year-2025/>

In our Diocese, **the Solemn Opening Mass for the Jubilee 2025 will be on Sunday, December 29, 2024 at the St. Paul Cathedral starting at 11:00 a.m.** (see invitation for details). All are invited to attend. For those unable to come to St. Paul, the Mass will be livestreamed on the St. Paul Diocese YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRyBeUwyXMAgCatDEce-CUg>

**The Jubilee Prayer:** Pope Francis has released the Jubilee Prayer. I invite you to include it in your daily prayer. Prayer cards have been provided to all parishes.

**The Jubilee Hymn:** A Jubilee hymn has been composed and is available in different languages. Parishes are invited to sing the hymn throughout the year. It is available at the following link: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html>

As we enter into the Jubilee Year 2025, may "this hope, which transcends life's fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals, makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called"<sup>1</sup>; Pope Francis.

May this Jubilee Year 2025 truly transform us into Pilgrims of Hope.

Yours in Christ,

†Gary Franken  
Bishop of St. Paul



<sup>1</sup>(From the Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025)

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segna-del-giubileo/il-pellegrinaggio.html>