



a journey, calling for *moments of greater intensity* to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps toward the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus”.

“In addition to finding hope in God’s grace” in this Jubilee Year, he said, “we are also called to discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us.” He said, “we need to recognise the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence.”

Francis identified “the first sign of hope” in “the desire for *peace* in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war.”

He called on believers to care for prisoners and appealed to governments to restore hope to prisoners by “forms of amnesty or pardon.”

He appealed to believers to care for “the sick, at home or in hospital” through “closeness and affection” and to care for the elderly who so “often feel lonely and abandoned.”

He said it was particularly important to give signs of hope to young people in today’s world. They are our future.

He called on believers to offer “signs of hope” to migrants. He insisted that “exiles, displaced persons

JUBILEE 2025: OVERVIEW OF THE DECREE “PILGRIMS OF HOPE”

Pope Francis issued the decree, for the Jubilee Year 2025. It opened in St Peter’s Basilica on Dec. 24, 2024, and will close on Jan. 6, 2026.

HOPE is the central message of this decree, named as “Hope does not disappoint”.

In English, Pope Francis refers to the decree as “**Pilgrims of Hope**”.

Pope Francis told believers that in this Jubilee Year “we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardship of any kind.”

“Hope is a gift and a task for every Christian. Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come. Let us train ourselves to recognise hope.”

“Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love.”

He prayed that this Jubilee Year may provide an opportunity “to be renewed in hope”.

He reminded believers that “the Christian life is

and refugees...ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, and the means to find their place in a new social context”

Then in a powerful plea, Francis said, “I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life.

Pope Francis said the Jubilee Year reminds us that “the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone”.

He appealed to governments to divert money away from military spending toward a global fund dedicated to ending hunger and aiding the development of poor countries a more dignified life.”

He called on more affluent nations “to forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them. More than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice”.

From the beginning of his pontificate, the Jesuit pope has encouraged people to seek God’s forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Francis concluded by saying that “the death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope” and “by virtue of the hope in which we were saved, we can view the passage of time with the certainty that the history of humanity and our own individual history are not doomed to a dead end or a dark abyss, but directed to an encounter with the Lord of Glory.”

Francis focused on the theme of hope as he exhorted us, in this Jubilee Year to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (*Rom 5:1-2.5*).

Dear brothers and sisters, in this Year of Prayer, as we celebrate the Jubilee Year, let us lift up our hearts to Christ, and become singers of hope in a world marked by too much despair. By our actions, our words, the decisions we make each day, our patient efforts to sow seeds of beauty and kindness wherever we find ourselves, we want to sing of hope, so that its melody can touch the heartstrings of humanity and reawaken in every heart the joy and the courage to embrace life to the full.

The “most beautiful gift the Catholic Church and its members can give the world is a reason to live with hope. The Christian cannot be satisfied with having hope; he or she must also radiate hope, be a sower of hope.”
Pope Francis

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.