



2025, A Jubilee Year of Hope

by Fr. Carlos Londono

Every 25 years, the Church universal celebrates what is called an “Ordinary Jubilee Year.” The Holy Father, Pope Francis, following the ancient tradition, has declared the year 2025 as a Jubilee Year of Hope according to his letter *Spes non confundit* (“Hope does not disappoint” Rom 5:5) from May 9th, 2024. Every Jubilee Year is a “moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus [...] whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as ‘our hope’ (1 Tim 1:1)”.

And what is hope? In his letter on the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis defines hope as “the desire and expectation of good things to come.” Jesus Christ and the gift of his pierced heart on the cross obtained for us the gift of eternal salvation, thus filling our hearts with the hope of fullness of life in this life and into eternity (see John 10:10). As Pope Francis also says, “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.”

At Saint John’s Cathedral, here in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and other Cathedrals around the world, a crucifix has been placed near the altar. This crucifix displaying the pierced heart of Jesus signifies and calls to mind the gifts of God given to his children by the merits of Jesus on the cross, the same merits that give value and efficacy to the work of the Church, including the dispensation of indulgences.

Indulgences? Yes! As a concrete sign of hope for us all, the pope has established that special indulgences be granted throughout the Jubilee Year of 2025.

And what are indulgences? Indulgences are a “way of discovering the unlimited nature of God’s mercy [...] who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him or her from every residue left by the consequences of sin.”

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1473), every mortal sin has both an eternal and a temporal consequence. The eternal consequence is forgiven when we celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. The temporal consequence is the time that it takes to make up for the wrong we did and confessed. If I break my friend’s car window, my friend might forgive my guilt and allow the friendship to continue (analogous to the eternal consequence of sin [loss of God’s friendship for all eternity] being forgiven), but I still need to repair the window or make amends in justice to the fact that the window was just fine before I broke it. This “reparation” takes time, the reason why we call it the temporal consequence of sin.

The temporal consequence of sin is in part “dealt with” by the fulfilling of the Penance given by the priest in Confession. A plenary indulgence, however, forgives the temporal consequence for our sins completely. Certain actions need to take place as we fulfill the work that grants

the plenary indulgence, namely, celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, receiving communion at that Mass, praying for the pope (an Our Father and a Hail Mary), and having a firm resolve to not sin again. In terms of the “work” necessary to obtain the indulgence, this Jubilee Year, Cathedrals are being highlighted as places to encounter the gift of God’s love and mercy through the reception of indulgences.

Here at the Family of Five, we are blessed to have the Cathedral as part of our family of parishes. According to the Holy Father, a plenary indulgence can be obtained for yourself or for a soul in purgatory this Jubilee Year by visiting the Cathedral and, there, participating in Mass, the Via Crucis, the Rosary etc. People that visit the Cathedral individually or in a group, and there engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed, and a Hail Mary, can also obtain a plenary indulgence.

Again, these “pilgrimages” or visits to the Cathedral must follow the usual conditions for an indulgence to be granted, namely going to Confession, receiving Communion, praying for the pope and asking God for the grace of being detached from sin.

(For more information on all the indulgences granted during the Jubilee year, please read the *Decree on the Granting of Indulgences during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025* published on May, 13th 2024).

As we begin this Jubilee Year of Hope in our archdiocese and family of parishes, we invite all our parishioners to become more familiar with this unique year of grace in the Church and to take advantage of the gifts of God’s LOVE, MERCY and COMPASSION that He shares with his children during this time.

References

Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year Spes non confundit

Decree on the Granting of Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025

Both documents may be found online at www.vatican.va