

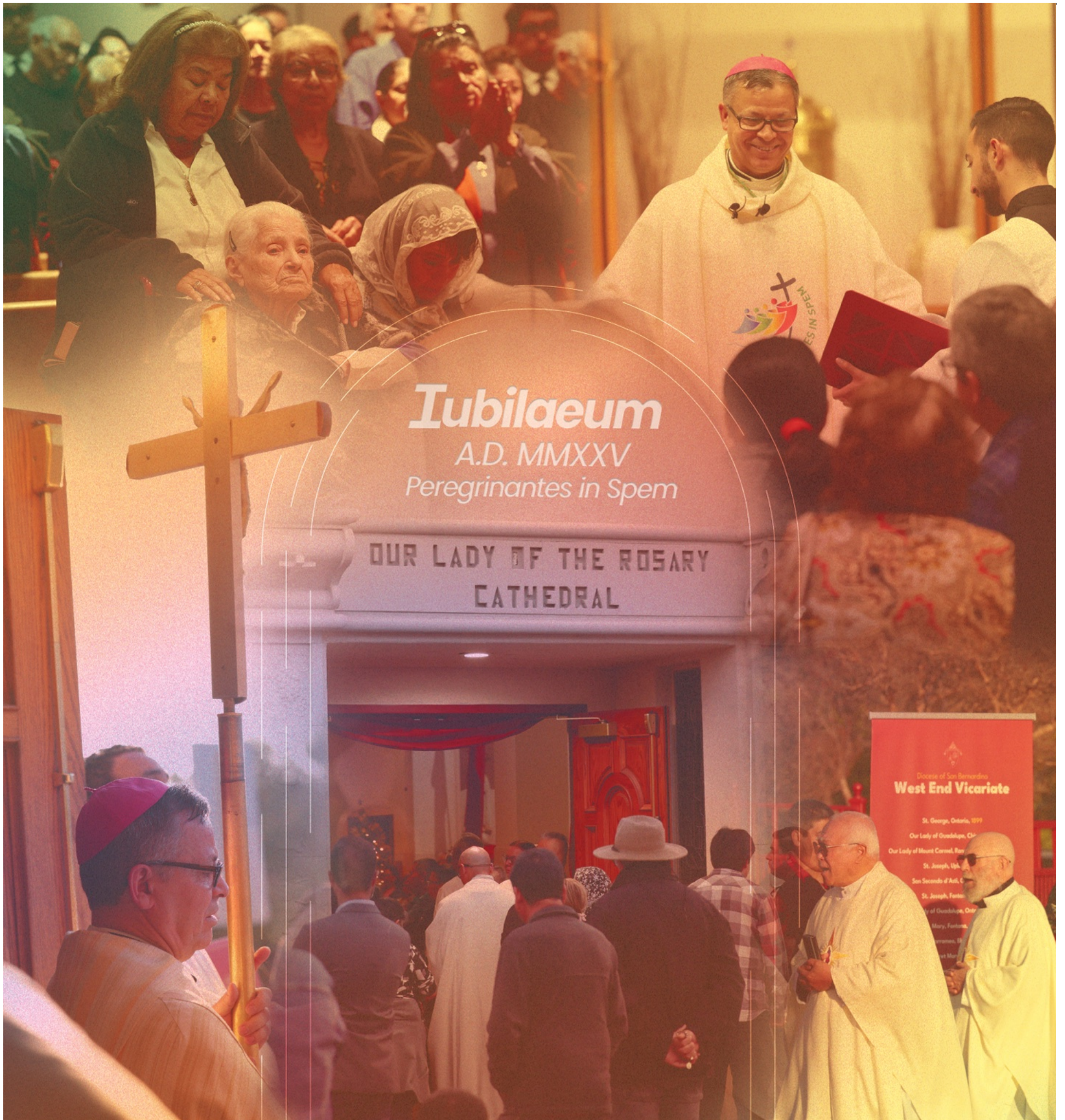
JUBILEE 2025 COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE



inland catholic
byte
diocese of san bernardino



Volume 18 Number 1



Our Jubilee journey begins



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Are you ready to celebrate? Are you ready to make a journey to the loving embrace of our God? Are you ready to feel hope? The kind that can only be found in the Lord Jesus?

We have a blessed opportunity for all these things and more within the 2025 Jubilee Year. This celebration is a nearly thousand-year-old tradition of our Church. As we enter into it, we will embark on a journey to be reconciled with our God and with each other. That's why the

theme of this Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope."

When he proclaimed the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invited us to reflect on the virtue of Christian hope as a path to forgiveness and renewal in the Lord. The Holy Father wrote, "Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross."

My dear friends, today's world is filled with anxieties and divisions that challenge our hope. So, we take this moment of the Jubilee to proclaim our hope in God's saving power, His grace and His love for us.

During the Jubilee Year, we will not only be invited to make a spiritual pilgrimage to God in our hearts. We can also make a physical journey of pilgrimage. Some will travel all the

way to Rome to join thousands of faithful Catholics from around the world in passing through the Holy Doors of the Jubilee and visiting pilgrimage sites.

Here in our diocese, there are many chances and places to make a pilgrimage during the Jubilee. Several churches and Catholic schools in each of our six vicariates have been designated as official pilgrimage sites. I encourage you to pick one that works best for you and make your journey. When you arrive you can attend Mass, adore the Blessed Sacrament, go to Confession and pray for the intentions of the Pope. This is how you will receive a Plenary Indulgence. This removes temporal punishment for sins we have committed and for which we have been forgiven. It is not every

day that you have an opportunity to receive a Plenary Indulgence. So please take advantage of this great blessing!

Our celebration of the Jubilee Year began with an opening Mass on Sunday, December 29. The faithful joined in this Eucharistic celebration at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino and thousands more watched via livestream. It was a great start! For more information about the Jubilee, including prayers, pilgrimage sites, history and many other topics visit our diocesan website.

God gives us this time of Jubilee to celebrate, to pray, to journey and to experience hope in the Lord Jesus, who loves us and redeems us.

Jubilee 2025 – Let's do this!

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

The Jubilee Logo

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.

The logo shows how the way of the pilgrimage is not an individual effort, but rather collective, with the impression of a growing dynamism that tends more and more to the cross.



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Opening Mass brings over 1,500 Pilgrims of Hope

By Elena Macias

“I’m very happy that you came,” Bishop Alberto Rojas said in amazement as he looked around the standing-room-only Cathedral. “I am surprised by joy; I wasn’t sure what to expect.”

The Diocese of San Bernardino joined Pope Francis, the Vatican and the Universal Church in opening the 2025 Jubilee Year with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rojas at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral on December 29, 2024. The Mass was attended by over 1,500 diverse faithful from around the diocese, displaying true testimony to the Jubilee Year’s motto, Pilgrims of Hope.

Pope Francis called for every Catholic diocese in the world to celebrate a Solemn Opening Mass at its cathedral in solidarity of the Opening of Holy Doors at the Basilica of St. John Lateran on Dec. 29.

“Pope Francis inaugurated this Jubilee Year on Christmas Eve at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican,” Bishop Rojas said. “In a wheelchair he opened the Jubilee door and invited the whole Church to make a pilgrimage through that door so that we may be leaving behind a dark world of desperation and chaos in order to enter the door, who is Christ, who is our hope and who is our light.”

The celebration began with a gathering of the people in the Cathedral’s Hall for the Introductory Rites led by Bishop Rojas and Deacon Luis Sanchez, Vicar for Deacons. Dcn. Sanchez proclaimed the Gospel John 14: 1-7 and read sections of Pope Francis’ Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year. After the reading, Bishop Rojas led the clergy and the faithful in a procession from the Cathedral hall around the Cathedral campus and into the church. During the procession, the faithful passed by six upright banners, displaying the name of the six different Vicariates of the diocese and the parishes within each of them.

Once at the doors of the Cathedral, Bishop Rojas took hold of the cross, held it up to the people, saying “Hail, Cross of Christ, our only hope.” With those words spoken, Bishop Rojas entered the Cathedral leading the faithful inside to officially open the 2025 Jubilee Year in the Diocese of San Bernardino. The procession line quickly filled the church and the remaining faithful dedicatedly filled the hall and courtyard.

The Mass highlighted the cultural diversity of the diocese with readings and songs proclaimed in a variety of languages such as Igbo, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Spanish.

With the Jubilee Year’s motto being Pilgrims of Hope, in his Homily, Bishop Rojas took a moment to remind the faithful that hope is a theological virtue, noting, “we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength but on the Holy Spirit.”

Bishop Rojas said that an important characteristic of being a Pilgrim of Hope means to have an “openness to life” in a time where this may be weakening.

“This openness to life is a strong statement of hope in every stage of our lives,” Bishop Rojas said. “The Holy Father writes, ‘Looking for a future of hope also entails having an enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it,’ sadly even in situations today Pope Francis says, ‘This is lacking.’”

Defying this notion was one of the Mass’ choir members, Nony Obadike, parishioner from St. Peter St. Paul parish in Alta Loma.

“We love to sing, we are also in the choir at our own parish, we enjoy doing stuff like this,” she exclaimed when asked why she decided to participate in this opening Mass.

Obadike’s love and enthusiasm for life and eagerness to share it with others could not only be heard in her singing, but also within her hopes for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

“The hope is that we get a better year, more blessings, more favors from God and being able to take it out to other people that need it,” Obadike said.

Bishop Rojas went on in his homily to discuss his concerns among today’s youth, mentioning that in several countries there is a decline in marriages and birth rates, possibly due to not trusting in the future. He referenced Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical on Christian hope, *Spe Salvi*, when he refers to St. Paul’s words to the Ephesians, saying “To live without hope, is to live without God in the world.”

Alexis Guzmán, a parishioner and Confirmation and Youth Coordinator from Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Chino who attended the Jubilee



TOP: The opening of the 2025 Jubilee Year within the Diocese of San Bernardino began in the hall of Our Lady of The Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino on December 29, 2024. BOTTOM LEFT: Bishop Alberto Rojas (right) and Bishop Emeritus Gerald Barnes (left) were the first to enter the Cathedral, followed by clergy and over 1,500 parishioners. BOTTOM RIGHT: The overflow of parishioners filled the hall, courtyards and the threshold of the Cathedral.

Opening Mass, acknowledged that in this Jubilee Year, another important characteristic is to keep hope and trust in God no matter what the future holds.

“One of the things I got from this Jubilee experience is the idea that we are coming together as a Church to really promote the idea of hope, in the sense that we are not looking to a better tomorrow, but we’re looking for whatever comes ahead,” he said. “It’s the sense that, ‘okay I’m hoping for whatever is yet to come.’”

Near the end of the Mass, a group of people that will be joining Bishop Rojas on a pilgrimage to Rome in March to pass through the Holy Doors received a special blessing from the Bishop.

“It was the most beautiful thing since we are going to Rome with Bishop Rojas,” said Deacon Jose Herrera. “Knowing that we are going with him over there and then being here in this moment is wonderful. We’re just waiting anxiously for that day to be here.”

Bishop Rojas concluded his Homily by inviting the faithful to “detach and detox” from cellphones and television, to “give some priority to your family members and your friends this year.” Doing that will “give us more hope,

that would make us more Pilgrims of Hope,” he said. Bishop Rojas concluded his Homily by praying, “May the Lord help us to become Pilgrims of Hope through our witness and through our testimony.”

A living witness to Bishop Rojas’ invitation, Dcn. Herrera says that his goal for the Jubilee Year, is to connect to the faithful and ensure in them that God is always with them, so there is always hope.

“I’m trying to be a connection to the people because it seems right now that the people are losing hope,” Dcn. Herrera said. “I’m trying to make this connection with the people trying to tell them that there is always hope and hope is the last thing that we should lose because God is always with us. He loves us so much that He’s always going to be there, no matter what, even though we are going through a difficult time right now, there’s hope. That is always our hope that the Lord will never leave us and that was His promise and that should be more than enough to always, always have hope.”

Elena Macias is the Managing Editor of the Inland Catholic BYTE and El Compás Católico.

What are the characteristics of a Jubilee Year?



PILGRIMAGE

The jubilee calls for us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. When we travel, we do not only change place physically, but we also change ourselves. Hence, it is important to prepare ourselves well, to plan the route, and learn about the destination. In this sense, the Jubilee pilgrimage begins before the start of the journey itself: the starting point is the decision to set out. The journey takes place gradually: there are various routes to choose from and places to discover; it is made up of particular sets of circumstances, moments of catechesis, sacred rites and liturgies. Along the way our traveling companions enrich us with new ways of understanding things and fresh perspectives.



HOLY DOOR

From a symbolic viewpoint, the Holy Door takes on a special significance: it is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it. In crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, the pilgrim is reminded of the passage from chapter 10 of St John's gospel: "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Passing through the Holy Door expresses the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd. A church is not only a sacred space but is a place of encounter and dialogue, of reconciliation and peace which awaits every pilgrim, the Church is essentially the place of the community of the faithful.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

The profession of faith – also known as the 'Symbol' – is a sign of the identity of the baptized person. The profession of faith expresses the central content of the faith: it succinctly captures the main truths that a believer accepts and witnesses to on the day of his or her baptism and shares with the entire Christian community for the rest of his or her life. There are various professions of faith which show the richness of the experience of encountering Jesus Christ. Traditionally, however, there are two that have gained special recognition in the Church: the baptismal creed of the church of Rome and the Nicene-Constantinopolitan creed.



CHARITY

Charity is a principal characteristic of the Christian life. No one can think that pilgrimage and the celebration of the indulgence of the Jubilee can be reduced to a form of magical ritual, without knowing that it is a life of charity that gives them ultimate meaning. Furthermore, charity is the preeminent sign of the Christian faith and its specific form of credibility. In the context of the Jubilee, the apostle Peter's invitation cannot be forgotten: "Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins." Charity, therefore, has its special place in the life of faith; moreover, in light of the Holy Year, Christian witness must be reaffirmed as a more expressive form of conversion.



RECONCILIATION

A Jubilee year is a sign of reconciliation because it establishes a "favorable time" (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:2) for conversion. We are called to put God at the center of our lives, growing toward Him and acknowledging His primacy. Even the Biblical call for the restoration of social justice and respect for the earth stems from a theological reality: if God is the creator of the universe, He must be given priority over every reality and partisan interest. It is God who makes this year holy by bestowing on us His own holiness. In practical terms, reconciliation involves receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, taking advantage of this time to rediscover the value of confession, and experiencing God's personal words of forgiveness.



INDULGENCES

The Jubilee Indulgence is a concrete manifestation of God's mercy, which goes beyond and transforms the boundaries of human justice. The Jubilee indulgence allows us to free our hearts from the weight of sin because the reparation due for our sins is given freely and abundantly. Those who cannot make the Jubilee pilgrimage due to illness or other circumstances are nonetheless invited to take part in the spiritual movement that accompanies the Jubilee year, offering up the sufferings of their daily lives, and participating in the Eucharistic celebration.

What is Jubilee 2025 and why do we need it?



Pope Francis at vespers following the proclamation of the papal bull "Spes Non Confundit," meaning "Hope does not disappoint," at the Vatican, May 9, 2024. Photo Credit: Daniel Ibanez/ Catholic News Agency.

By Father Anthony Dao

During a ceremony in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, May 9, 2024, Pope Francis issued a Decree announcing the Holy Year 2025 with the title "Spes Non Confundit - Hope Does Not Disappoint." (Rom 5: 5)

In 25 paragraphs he presented hope as the desires of our life, expecting and waiting for good things to happen, though we do not know what the future may bring. He wished that those who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future; those who could not feel much happiness in life, will receive God's Word and Mercy to help them during the Holy Year to find reasons for real hope.

Globally, the Pope's decree called on all nations to end the tragedy of wars. All people should remember that those who are the peace-makers are called children of God.

Spes Non Confundit also reminded people that the protection of Creation is the responsibility of all, continuing the Pope's message for the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation on September 11, 2024.

Socially, the Pope in *Spes Non Confundit* calls us to give special care to those who are marginalized – the poor, the prisoners, migrants, the sick, the elderly, young men and women affected by drugs and corruption in society. He requested the forgiveness of debt for poor countries, promoted the beauty of life and the parental joy of bringing children into the world.

Religiously, he strongly believed that God's mercy is here and now. Through

the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can feel and touch God's love.

He also hoped that during this Holy Year, there will be an ecumenical celebration, in which all Christians will come and share the same love from the salvation of Jesus. In the spirit of solidarity, all baptized Christians will be able to share the new visible signs of the evangelization, and to be the witness to God's presence in the world.

Patience is a needed virtue for the Holy Year. In this time of the Internet, quickness is more favored than patience; patience has no place to grow. But if we have patience, we can appreciate the changes of the seasons and the harvests, observe the life of animals and their cycles of growth, and enjoy the clarity of Saint Francis' vision when he called the sun 'brother' and the moon 'sister.'

Declaration of the New Holy Year

The Pope, after giving a short history of the Holy Year, said: "Sustained by this great tradition, and certain that the Jubilee Year will be for the entire Church a lively experience of grace and hope, I hereby decree that the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican will be opened on 24 December 2024, thus inaugurating the Ordinary Jubilee."

It is noted that there are two types of Holy Years: one is ordinary, and the other is extraordinary. An Ordinary Holy Year, which is also known as a Jubilee, takes place every 25 years.

An extraordinary Holy Year is for a special occasion, e.g. when Pope Francis declared a Year of Mercy in 2016 to emphasize his desire to

present the Church as merciful and welcoming rather than distant.

What is a Holy Year?

In the Catholic tradition, a Holy Year is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiving the punishment due to sin. It is a year of reconciliation between adversaries or enemies. It is also a year of self-conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consequently, solidarity, hope, peace, justice and love are born.

Holy Year in the Old Testament

The Holy Year is not "man-made", meaning created by humans to add more solemnity or celebrations. The origin of the Holy Year can be found in the Old Testament.

Leviticus 25: 8 -14 reads:

to your neighbor or buy any from your neighbor; do not deal unfairly with one another."

Looking at pictures on YouTube, we often see an image of a Jewish Rabbi holding a trumpet announcing this special year. This trumpet, made of a goat horn, called yobel in Hebrew, means joy. From the word yobel comes the word Jubilee.

Holy Year in the New Testament

In the New Testament, Jesus presented himself as the one who completed the old Jubilee, because he came to "preach the year of the Lord's favor." Isaiah 61: 1-2 proclaimed:

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted,



On December 24, 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, officially inaugurating the 2025 Jubilee Holy Year.

"You shall count seven weeks of years—seven times seven years—such that the seven weeks of years amount to forty-nine years.

Then, on the tenth day of the seventh month, let the ram's horn resound; on this, the Day of Atonement, the ram's horn blast shall resound throughout your land.

You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred. You shall proclaim liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to your own property, each of you to your own family.

This fiftieth year is your year of jubilee; you shall not sow, nor shall you reap the aftergrowth or pick the untrimmed vines.

Since this is the jubilee. It shall be sacred for you. You may only eat what the field yields of itself.

In this year of jubilee, then, each of you shall return to your own property.

Therefore, when you sell any land

to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the Lord

and a day of vindication by our God; To comfort all who mourn"

Jesus emphasized more clearly about Himself, who is the Holy Year and who brings the Holy Year to people:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives

and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Fr. Anthony Dao is a retired priest of the diocese.

A look at Jubilees past

By Arlene Gutierrez

As we open the doors to the Pilgrims of Hope for 2025, we look back at Jubilees from years past. Since the inception of our diocese, we have experienced two Jubilees; in 2000, we had our most recent Ordinary Jubilee with the theme, “Opening Wide the Doors to Christ.” In 2015, we joined the rest of the Universal Church in an Extraordinary Jubilee, the “The Year of Mercy.” Our diocese has been active in these previous jubilees as both encompassed themes that rang in the hearts of the faithful entering the new millennium in 2000. With Pope John Paul II making a public request for us to celebrate the mercy of God and the forgiveness of sins, we opened our hearts to Christ so we would be open to Christ’s mercy.

In 2000, our focus was on deepening our spiritual lives both individually and collectively as a



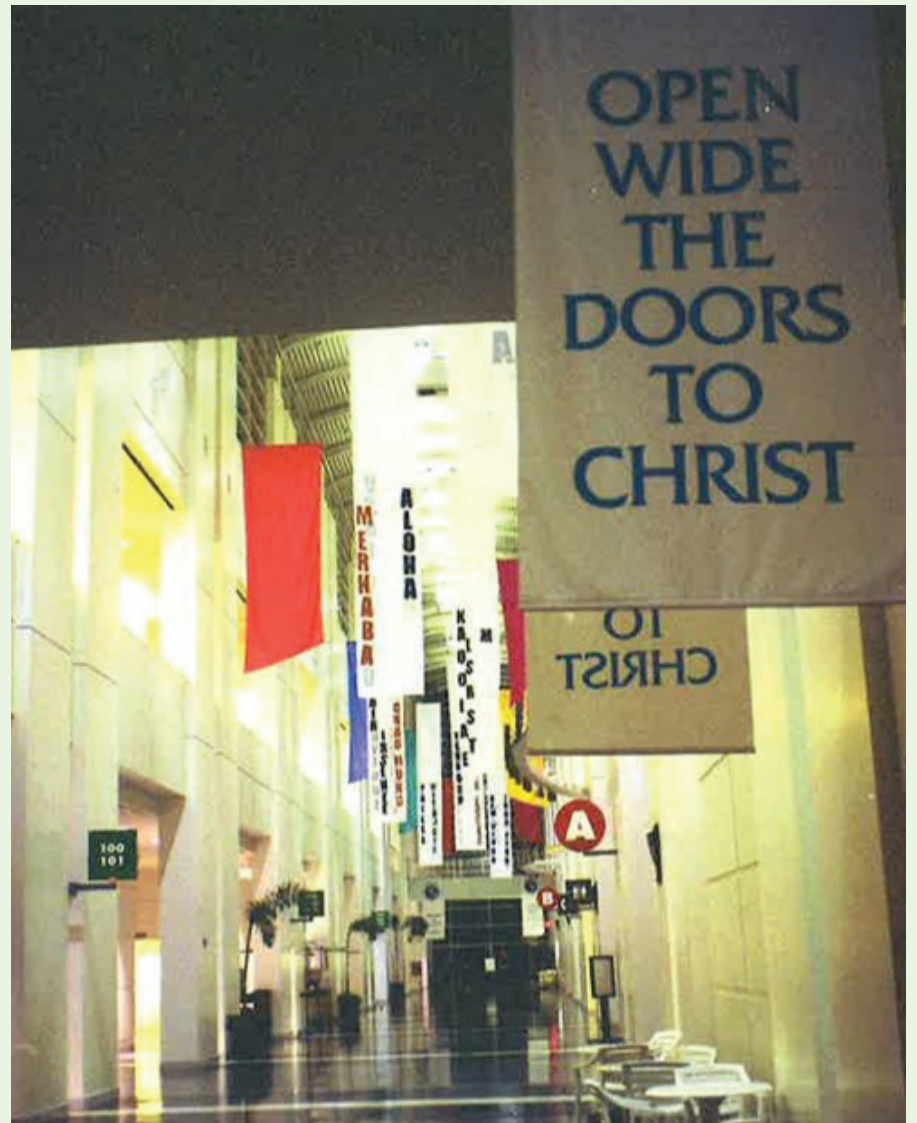
The Diocese of San Bernardino's 2000 Jubilee Year logo.

community of believers in Jesus Christ. By opening our hearts and doors to Christ, we aimed to become a guiding light for those in need, whether within our families, neighborhoods, or society at large. That Jubilee marked a pivotal moment as we welcomed the millennium amid challenges such as war, famine, and a prevailing sense of uncertainty about the future. The theme served as an invitation for the faithful to reflect on their lives and consider how they might evangelize, reconcile, and celebrate their relationship with Christ within our universal church and humanity.

Within our diocese, the call to “Open the Door Wide to Christ” translated into a commitment to our baptismal promise of evangelization and service to those in need. Six key characteristics characterized the 2000 jubilee to ensure an active engagement in our diocese. We established perpetual adoration across all six vicariates, facilitated moments of reconciliation in parishes, and designated Holy Doors at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, along with a parish in each vicariate. Each participating church chose a door for this celebration. Furthermore, our diocese took a stand for victims of suffering and neglect, organizing marches inspired by the Stations of the Cross, and hosted the inaugural Encuentro 2000, fostering a mutual understanding within our culturally and ethnically diverse local Church. This spirit of encounter continues to inform various parish ministries and the current V Encuentro initiative. Lastly, we invited our faithful to make spiritual or physical journeys. These characteristics aimed to nurture the faithful so they could learn to open their hearts to receive God’s message for the 2000 Jubilee.

As part of our call to pilgrimage throughout our diocese, we asked the Catholic faithful to visit parishes of historical significance, hold space for those plagued by injustice, and provide moments of respite for their souls. We encouraged our pilgrims to travel through Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to learn about the rich history of the parish pilgrimage sites. A travel guide was made for those who were interested in this historical journey. A Jubilee Justice convention was held at the University of California, Los Angeles for the Ministry of Faith and Justice to discuss key topics in the Diocese. The last pilgrimage we asked people to consider was to our retreat centers, places meant help enrich and heal the hearts and souls of those in our diocese who need it the most.

The six characteristics made for the 2000 Jubilee helped the people learn to open themselves up to Christ so that they would be transformed at the end of their journey. “In order to grow, we must experience this life that God has left for us to enjoy and learn



2000 was a special year in the life of the Diocese. 2,200 people attended the Jubilee 2000 Eucharistic Congress held at the Ontario Convention Center.

to put our faith into action by helping our brothers and sisters in need,” read one of the characteristics. “By the conclusion of this Jubilee, we hope to emerge as transformed faithful, embodying the continuous cycle of growth and change that God invites us to undertake.”

From that call to open our hearts to Christ, we now, in this 2025 Jubilee, identify as Pilgrims of Hope. What does this theme signify for us? Are we indeed pilgrims of hope for ourselves, our neighbors, friends, and family? We are called to extend our hands in unity, becoming pilgrims of hope in a world that urges us to reignite our baptismal promise and cultivate a deeper connection to Christ by embodying love and kindness, serving as a beacon of light for those in need.

The 2000 Jubilee was a call for us to open our hearts to Christ and to one

another. To allow Christ’s love to flow within us. This year, our task is to be Pilgrims of Hope together. In the Pilgrims of Hope logo for 2025, each pilgrim is holding onto one another. This image of the pilgrims signifies that this journey is not one in which we travel alone but with each other, our community, our families, our friends, and those on the outskirts of our community who need a little light in their lives. Let this be the Jubilee that you actively journey through your faith; even if this is your first Jubilee, do not let it pass you by. May we all continue this journey in our faith together as one.

Arlene Gutierrez is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Archives.

‘It was hard to hold back the tears’

A diocesan pilgrim journeys to Rome for the start of Jubilee 2025



Wilfredo Aguirre, Director of Advocacy and Justice for Immigrants for the diocese (LEFT), passed through the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Day. He is pictured with his parents, Wilfredo, Sr. and Alba Luz, in St. Peter's Square.

As he approached the threshold of St. Peter's Basilica, joining with thousands of other pilgrims who had made their way to Rome for Jubilee 2025, Wilfredo Aguirre paused and placed his hand on the bronze Holy Door before passing through it.

This moment of prayer and reverence was deeply emotional, said Aguirre, a parishioner of The Holy Name of Jesus in Redlands and the Director of Advocacy and Justice for

Immigrants for the Diocese.

“It was very tall and wide, and it was framed with a beautiful garland with fresh flowers,” Aguirre said of the Holy Door. “There was such a feeling of gratitude to be there.”

Aguirre made his pilgrimage to Rome with his parents, his wife and her parents. The trip was in the works before details of the Jubilee opening were public, but they quickly adjusted their itinerary to begin their visit to

Italy with the opening celebration. “We started planning around the Jubilee,” he said. “It was very exciting to know that we’d be there at the beginning.”

The Jubilee Year officially started with opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on December 24. Aguirre and his family were at the Basilica a day later, on Christmas Day.

Some pilgrims simply walked through the door of St. Peter's as if on their way to Mass, Aguirre said, but many fell to their knees at the threshold and went through the door that way. Once inside, he and his family immediately went to Confession and then spent some time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before participating in Mass. By following this sequence and meeting other requirements, they received a Plenary Indulgence, which removes temporal punishment for sins that have been confessed and forgiven.

The beauty and majesty of St.

Peter's Basilica, the largest church on earth, brought an intense feeling of holy presence for Aguirre and his family. “It's hard to hold back the tears when you're there, with all the emotions you're feeling.”

That same day Aguirre and his family had front row seats in St. Peter's Square as they prayed the Angelus with Pope Francis. They said the Holy Father bore signs of his 88 years of life but also reflected the light of holiness. “We were all discussing how blessed we were to see him.”

Aguirre carried with him special Jubilee Rosaries that were blessed by the Holy Father during the prayer service. He gifted the Rosaries to his colleagues in the Diocesan Department of Life, Dignity and Justice.

Reflecting on his pilgrimage, Aguirre said he was inspired by the huge and diverse crowds in Rome.

“It reminded me that I'm not alone in this journey,” he said. “We're all pulling each other forward.”

Jubilee invites us to perform Works of Mercy

By Teresa Rocha

As the Universal Church celebrates this Holy Jubilee Year, the motto, “Pilgrims of Hope,” serves as a spiritual reminder that we are pilgrims on a journey, trying to bring light into the world. We are also reminded as Christians to keep this light burning and be witnesses in this world by providing reasons for our hope in Jesus Christ. That is why this Jubilee Year calls us in a special way to extend care to our brothers and sisters in need through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

We are taught the importance of the Works of Mercy from the Gospel Matthew 25:45, when Jesus tells us, “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

As a Pilgrim of Hope you can practice simple acts of charity, educate yourself about world hunger, support and volunteer at a homeless shelter, volunteer to work at a clothing drive, spend quality

time with those who are homebound, support efforts that seek abolition of the death penalty, support or volunteer at a hospice. Another task for us in this Jubilee Year is to cultivate hope in our young people, listening and supporting their dreams for the future. Indeed, they depend on the witnesses from Christians in the community.

Spread the Works of Mercy in the life of our neighbors. Offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, or a good deed, so that the rich seeds of hope may be planted in others.

Practicing these Works of Mercy are practical ways of showing gratitude to the loving God among us.

Teresa Rocha is the Director of the Diocesan Office of Community Services and Outreach Programs. To find local community service volunteer opportunities, please email trocha@sbdiocese.org or call (909) 475-5468.

The Corporal Works of Mercy.

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give Drink to the thirsty
3. Shelter the homeless
4. Visit the sick
5. Visit the prisoners
6. Bury the dead
7. Give Alms to the poor

The Spiritual Works of Mercy.

1. Counsel the doubtful
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Admonish the sinner
4. Comfort the sorrowful
5. Forgive injuries
6. Bear wrongs patiently
7. Pray for the living and the dead

Diocese of San Bernardino Jubilee Calendar

Vespers with Eucharistic Adoration in Celebration and Prayer for the Jubilee Groups

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Cathedral,
2525 N Arrowhead Ave,
San Bernardino, CA, 92405

***All times are at 5:30 pm**

JANUARY 26

World of Communications

FEBRUARY 9

Armed Forces, Police, Security Officials

FEBRUARY 16

Artists

FEBRUARY 23

Deacons

MARCH 9

Volunteers

MARCH 30

Missionaries

APRIL 6

The Sick & Health Care Workers

APRIL 27

Teenagers & Persons with Disabilities

MAY 4

Workers, Business and Entrepreneurship

MAY 18

Eastern Churches & Confraternities

MAY 25

Children / Youth

JUNE 1

Families, Godparents, and the Elderly

JUNE 8

Holy See & Ecclesial Movements, Associations & New
Communities

JUNE 15

Sports

JUNE 22

Government Staff & Justice

JUNE 29

Bishops, Priests, Seminarians

JULY 6

Young People / Young Adults

SEPTEMBER 28

Catechists and Catechetical Ministers

OCTOBER 5

Consecrated Life & Migrants & Missions

OCTOBER 12

Marian Spirituality

OCTOBER 19

Missionary World

NOVEMBER 2

World of Education

NOVEMBER 16

The Poor

NOVEMBER 23

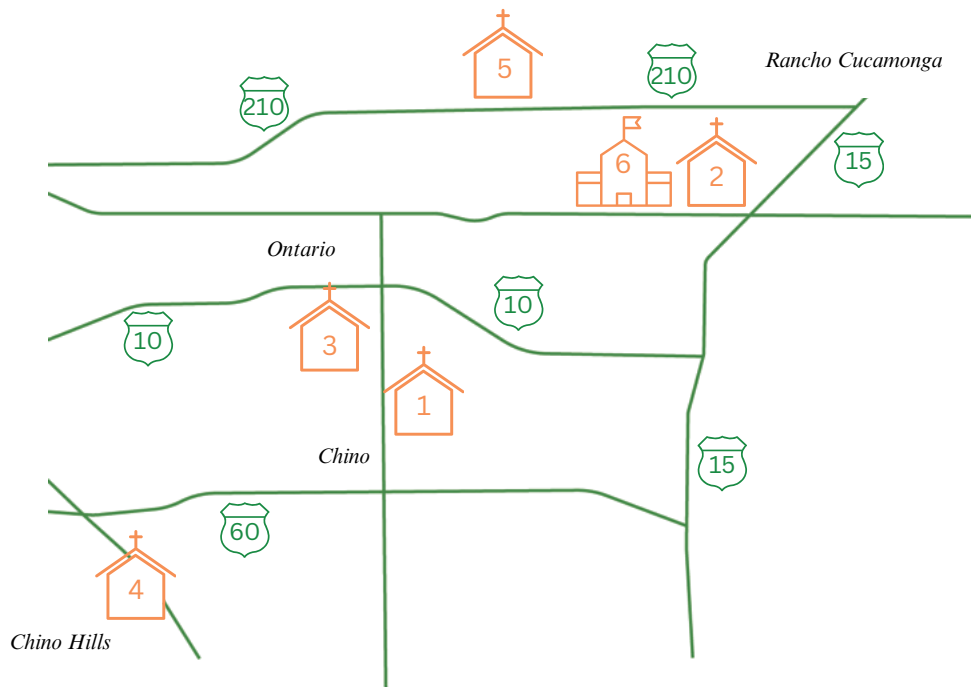
Choirs & Liturgical Musicians

DECEMBER 14

The Imprisoned and Incarcerated

Diocese of San Bernardino 2025 Jubilee Site Map

The Diocese of San Bernardino encourages parishioners to make a pilgrimage to as many designated Jubilee sites as they can throughout the 2025 Jubilee Year.

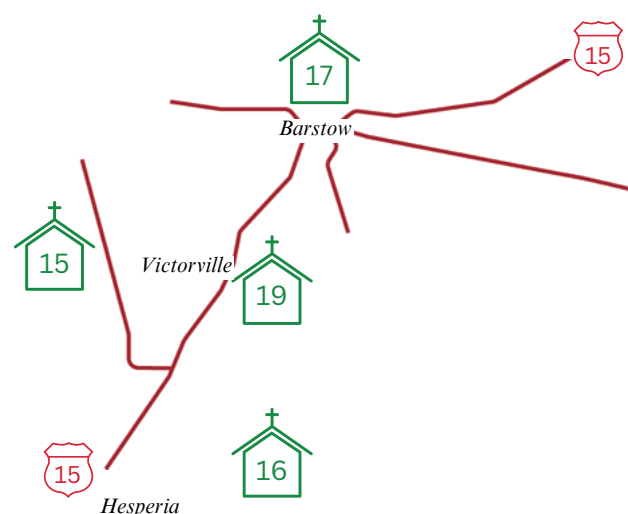
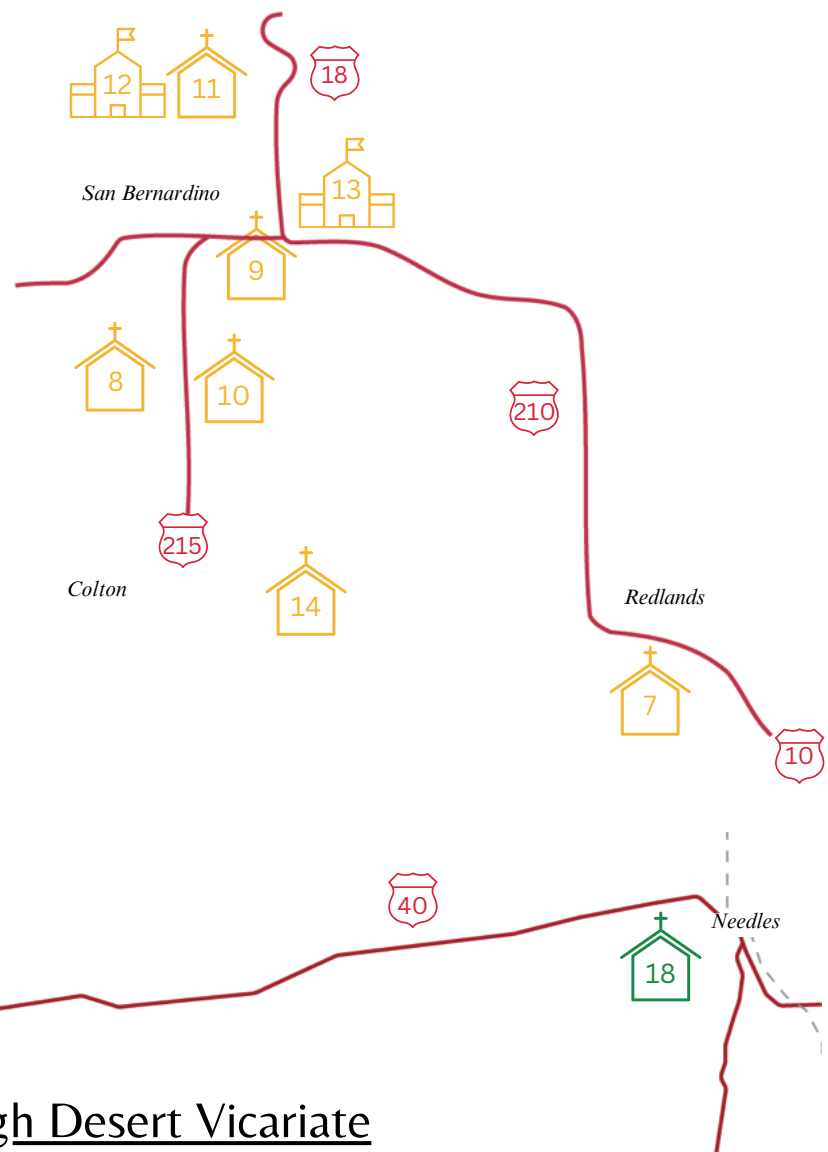


West End Vicariate

1. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Chino, 1908
2. Sacred Heart, Rancho Cucamonga, 1953
3. St. George, Ontario, 1882
4. St. Paul the Apostle, Chino Hills, 1986
5. St. Peter and St. Paul, Alta Loma, 1970
6. Sacred Heart School, Rancho Cucamonga, 1984

San Bernardino Vicariate

7. The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community, Inc., Redlands, 2006
8. Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Bernardino, 1925
9. Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, San Bernardino, 1927
10. St. Bernardine, San Bernardino, 1862
11. Our Lady of the Assumption, San Bernardino, 1954
12. Our Lady of the Assumption School, San Bernardino, 1958
13. Aquinas High School, San Bernardino, 1955
14. Our Lady Queen of Peace Cemetery, Colton, 2005



High Desert Vicariate

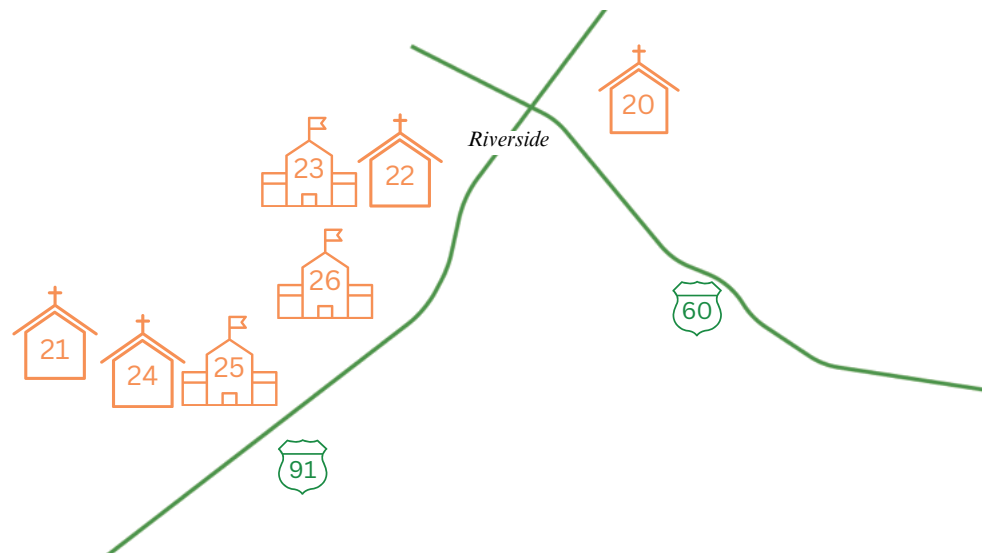
15. Christ the Good Shepherd, Adelanto, 1962
16. Holy Family, Hesperia, 1961
17. St. Joseph, Barstow, 1921
18. St. Ann, Needles, 1888
19. St. Joan of Arc, Victorville, 1927

Diocese of San Bernardino 2025 Jubilee Site Map

Note about Catholic School Jubilee Sites: Pilgrimages to the designated Jubilee Catholic School sites, to ensure safety, are only open to currently enrolled Catholic school students and their families in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

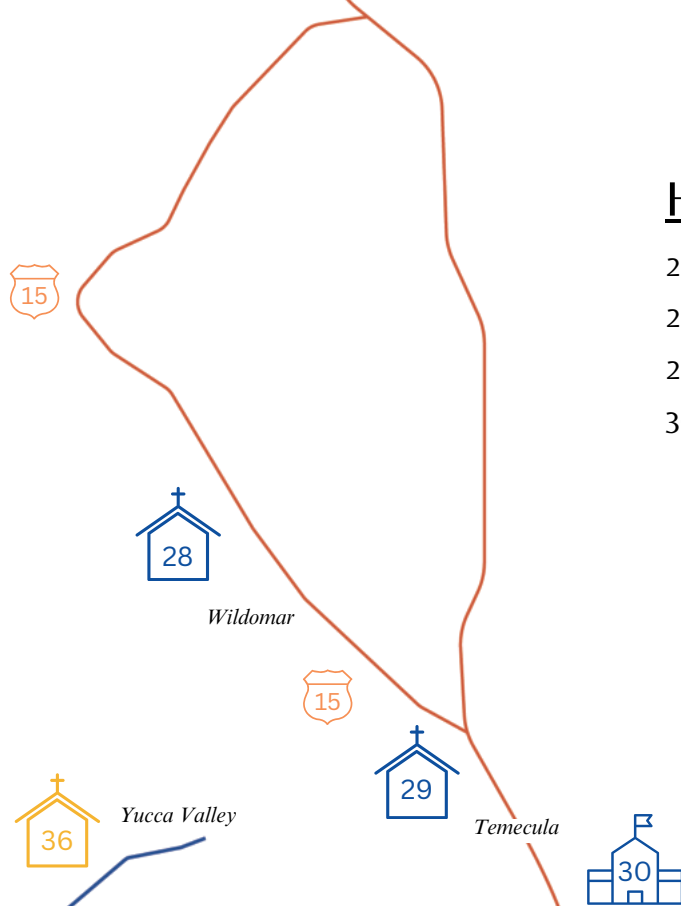
Riverside Vicariate

- 20. St. Andrew Newman Center, Riverside, 1954
- 21. St. Andrew Kim, Riverside 2009
- 22. St. Francis de Sales, Riverside, 1886
- 23. St. Francis de Sales School, Riverside, 1918
- 24. St. Thomas the Apostle, Riverside, 1903
- 25. St. Thomas the Apostle School, Riverside, 1946
- 26. Notre Dame High School, Riverside, 1956



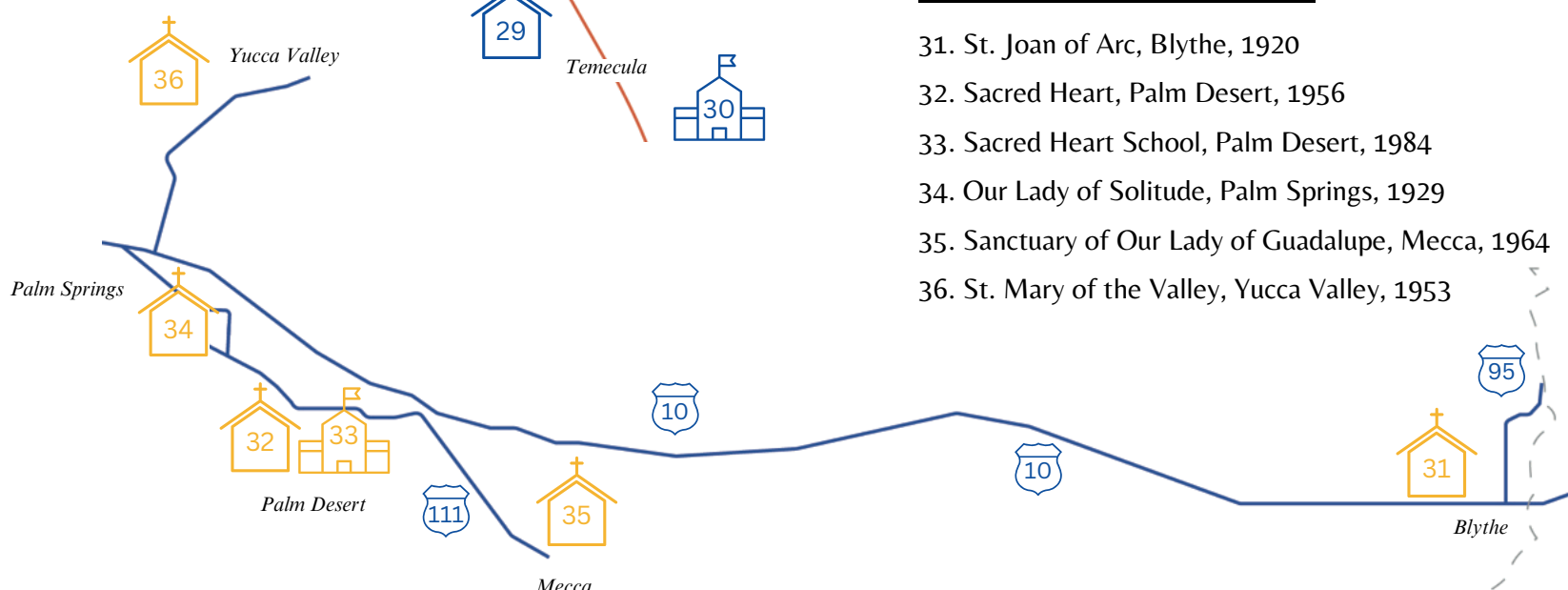
Hemet Vicariate

- 27. St. Christopher, Moreno Valley, 1957
- 28. St. Frances of Rome, Wildomar, 1887
- 29. St. Catherine of Alexandria, Temecula, 1979
- 30. Saint Jeanne de Lestonnac School, Temecula, 2018



Low Desert Vicariate

- 31. St. Joan of Arc, Blythe, 1920
- 32. Sacred Heart, Palm Desert, 1956
- 33. Sacred Heart School, Palm Desert, 1984
- 34. Our Lady of Solitude, Palm Springs, 1929
- 35. Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mecca, 1964
- 36. St. Mary of the Valley, Yucca Valley, 1953



Visit Diocesan Pilgrimage Sites, win prizes

Can you visit them all?

The Diocese of San Bernardino encourages parishioners to make a pilgrimage to as many designated Jubilee sites as they can throughout the 2025 Jubilee Year.

To Participate: Visit a designated Jubilee Site, locate the site's 2025 Jubilee Digital Passport Stamp QR Code form, scan it and submit the form. Repeat this process for each new Jubilee Site you pilgrimage to. One entry per person per Jubilee site only.

Note about Catholic School Jubilee Sites:

Pilgrimages the designated Jubilee Catholic School sites, to ensure safety, are only open to currently enrolled Catholic school students and their families in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

Opportunity Drawings

There will be opportunity drawings for those parishioners who visit designated Jubilee sites. Visit sbdiocese.org/Jubilee2025 to view the requirements and prize list. (While supplies last)

Monthly: Visit a Parish Pilgrimage Site other than their Home Parish, and the Cathedral and Cemetery.

Annual Tier 2: Visit all Diocesan Pilgrimage Sites (Cathedral, Parish, Cemetery).

Annual Tier 3: Visit one Parish Pilgrimage Site in each Vicariate

Plus, Cathedral and Cemetery.

Annual: Tier 4: Visit each Pilgrimage site within a single Vicariate, plus the Cathedral and Cemetery.

Annual: Tier 5: Visit seven Pop-Ups of Hope Events plus the Cathedral and Cemetery.

Monthly



Tier 2



Tier 3



Tier 4

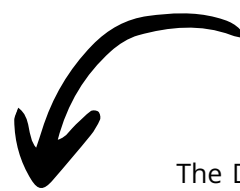


Tier 5



2025 Jubilee Digital Passport Stamp

Sign in here



Visit Jubilee Sites, Win Prizes

The Diocese of San Bernardino invites parishioners to visit designated Jubilee sites during the 2025 Jubilee Year. To participate, scan the QR code (LEFT) for the 2025 Jubilee Digital Passport Stamp at each site and submit the form. Each person may submit one entry per site. There will be prizes for parishioners who visit designated Jubilee sites. For more information, visit www.sbdiocese.org/jubilee2025.

Pop-ups of Hope

Pop-Ups of Hope events will be an opportunity for families to create a craft while being invited to create a craft for other(s) while reflecting on an image of a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy as work of hope.

Hosted by: Deacon(s) and Catechetical Ministry of Jubilee Site.

Preparation: Invitation to Confirmation Students to prepare materials as necessary.

Crafts may include: Rosary Bracelets, Pinwheels, Wreaths, Candles, Pilgrim Bracelets

Visit: sbdiocese.org/Jubilee2025 for Pop-Ups of Hope dates.



Sacrament of Reconciliation keys our Jubilee journey

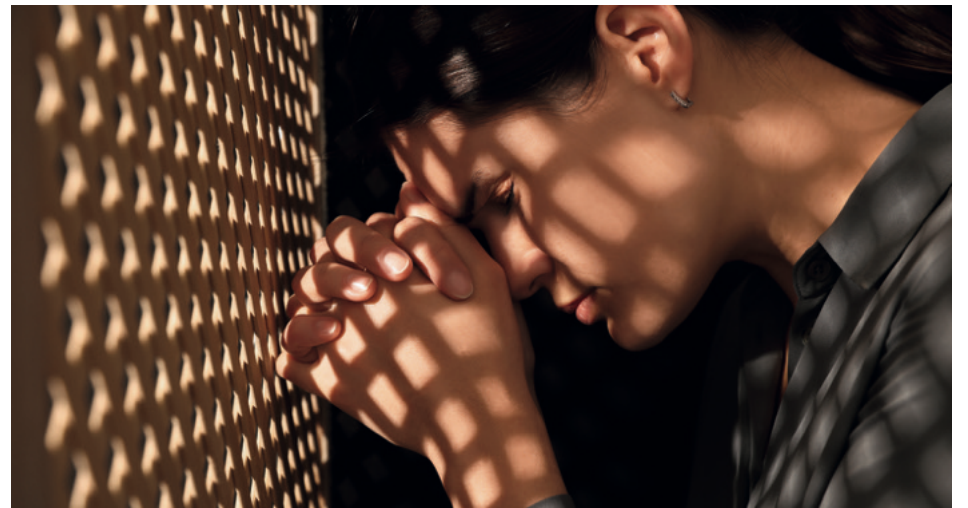
By Rev. Benedict Nwachukwu-Udaku, Ph.D.

Acknowledging that we are sinners is the best way to open our hearts to the blessings of the Jubilee Year to find home in us. In his best-selling book "Rediscover Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion and Purpose," Matthew Kelly writes: "I am a sinner. Every day I find myself doing things that are self-destructive and that make me a lesser person. I say things that hurt others, or I hurt others by not saying things. When that happens, you can be sure the things I am thinking are giving birth to those words and actions. These are the thoughts, words, and actions that deviate from the natural order and separate me from the peace of knowing I am contributing positively to the common good of the unfolding universe. The strange thing is, deep within I don't want to think, say, and do these things. I don't want to be the lesser person; I want to be the best-version-of-myself. I want to live by contributing to other people's happiness, not their misery. In each moment of each day, I find myself caught in a struggle. I am divided. No different from you, I find myself experiencing what Paul described: 'The good I would, I do not, and the evil that I should not do, it is what I do' (Romans 7:19)."

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we are restored to communion with God and with one another. The Jubilee Year, as a time of encounter with God, makes

reconciliation with our Heavenly Father imperative. Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of this sacrament, stating: "The Jubilee churches along the pilgrimage routes and in the city of Rome can serve as oases of spirituality and places of rest on the pilgrimage of faith, where we can drink from the wellsprings of hope, above all by approaching the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the essential starting-point of any true journey of conversion. In the particular churches, special care should be taken to prepare priests and the faithful to celebrate the sacrament of Confession and to make it readily available in its individual form (Spes Non Confundit, no.3)."

The Sacrament of Reconciliation meets the need for spiritual renewal, allowing us to remain in a continuous state of grace as we journey towards God, our Father. This sacrament of healing is not only a profound spiritual gift but also a decisive, essential and fundamental step on our journey of faith. Through it, we allow the Lord to erase our sins, heal our hearts, lift us up, to embrace us, and reveal His tender and compassionate countenance. As Scripture reminds us, "Be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20) (Spes Non Confundit, No. 24). The Jubilee Year ultimately is a celebration of the outpouring of divine mercy, grace and forgiveness. Failing to partake in Confession during this sacred time would be a missed opportunity to receive the fullness of God's mercy



One of the main characteristics of a Holy Jubilee Year is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, taking advantage of this time to rediscover the value of confession, and experiencing God's personal words of forgiveness.

and pardon.

The Jubilee Year and Plenary Indulgence

An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. This spiritual benefit is granted to a faithful Christian who is duly disposed and fulfils certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead (CCC, 1471). As part of the spiritual benefits of the Jubilee Year, the Church, through the Vicar of Christ, Pope Francis, provides indulgences to the faithful, who meet the necessary conditions to receive

this grace. According to Pope Francis, an indulgence is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy (Spes Non Confundit, no. 23). To obtain a plenary indulgence during the Jubilee Year 2025, one must fulfil the following requirements: Visit one of the churches designated by the Bishop (see pages 10-11), receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receive Holy Communion, practice Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and pray for the Pope's intentions.

Rev. Benedict Nwachukwu-Udaku, Ph.D. is the Director of Academic Formation at St. Junipero Serra House of Formation in Grand Terrace.

How to obtain a Plenary Indulgence during the 2025 Jubilee Year:

- Make a pilgrimage to one of:
 - The Holy Doors, or other Holy sites in Rome, Italy.
 - Any Sacred Jubilee site Nationally or Internationally.
 - The Designated Jubilee sites in the Diocese of San Bernardino.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the Jubilee site you make a pilgrimage to.
- Participate in the Works of Mercy (at the Jubilee site or in your own time).
- Pray for the Pope's intentions (at the Jubilee site or in your own time).
- Participate in a liturgical celebration or prayer at the Jubilee site that you make a pilgrimage to:
 - At Mass, receive Holy Communion
 - Eucharistic Adoration
 - Any celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation
 - A led Liturgy of the Hours
 - The Via Crucis
 - The Rosary
 - Penance Services



PILGRIMS OF HOPE Jubilee 2025



Diocese of
San Bernardino

