

## **Jubilee 2025 Motto: Pilgrims of Hope**

The Jubilee pilgrimage is meant to be the outward sign of an inward journey that all of us are called to make toward our final destination.

*“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”*

(Letter of Pope Francis, 11 February 2022)

As a people united in the Lord Jesus, all Christians have a particular mission to manifest hope to our world.

### **DECEMBER CONTEMPLATION**

*“God is the father of peace, not of disturbance.*

*Therefore, let us continue to move forward and trust in God ... rest in the heart of Jesus.”*

(Bl. John Merlini, *Letter 274*)<sup>1</sup>

#### **Opening Prayer**

Leader: Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

*R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

**All:** Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today’s actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father’s Intention for Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For all who hear and read God’s word with faith, that the Spirit may touch their hearts with joy, let us pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For all our family members who have died: bring them in joy to your eternal home, we pray to the Lord. *R/:*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For those who’ve asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

#### ***Silent Reflection***

*Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.*

<sup>1</sup>On January 12, 2025 Venerable John Merlini, 3<sup>rd</sup> Moderator General of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, will be Beatified in Rome. Each month the Contemplations will include a quote from one of his letters.

## **Leader: Prayer Before Reading Scripture**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the Scriptures that were written for our instruction. They reveal the depth and width of your great love and show us how to walk in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading:** *(Gal 3:22-29)*

*A reading from the letter to the Galatians*

Brothers and sisters: Scripture confined all things under the power of sin, that through faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe. Before faith came, we were held in custody under law, confined for the faith that was to be revealed. Consequently, the law was our disciplinarian for Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a disciplinarian. For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm:** *(Psalm 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17)*

**Response:** *Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!*

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.  
Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! *R/.*

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.  
Make us glad, for the days when you afflicted us, for the years when we saw evil. *R/.*

Let your work be seen by your servants and your glory by their children;  
and may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours;  
prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands! *R/.*

## **Glory Be...**

**Leader:** As Pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee Year our reflections will be from Pope Benedict's encyclical on Christian Hope

## **Reflection from *Spe Salvi*, 31**

Let us say once again: we need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain. The fact that it comes to us as a gift is actually part of hope. God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety. His Kingdom is not an imaginary hereafter, situated in a future that will never arrive; his Kingdom is present wherever he is loved and wherever his love reaches us.

## ***Silent Reflection***

## **Leader: Prayer for December**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our glory is to stand before the world as your own sons and daughters. May the simple beauty of Jesus' birth summon us always to love what is most deeply human, and to see your Word reflected in those whose lives we touch. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blood of Christ is Life for all Our Needs

**Leader:** Repeat before each intention:

**Eternal Father, we offer you the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, poured out on the cross and offered daily on the altar:**

- ✦ For the glory of your name, for the coming of your kingdom and for the salvation of all.
- ✦ For the propagation of faith, for Pope Francis, for bishops, priests, and religious and for the sanctification of all the people of God.
- ✦ For the conversion of sinners, for the loving acceptance of your Word, and for the union of all Christians.
- ✦ For civil authorities, for the strengthening of public morals, and for peace and justice among all nations.
- ✦ For the sanctification of our work and suffering, for the poor, sick and afflicted, and for all who rely on our prayers.
- ✦ For our own spiritual and temporal needs, for those of our relatives, benefactors, and also for those of our enemies.
- ✦ For those who are to die this day, for the souls in purgatory, and for our final union with Christ in Glory.

**Our Father...**

### *Silent Reflection*

**Prayer of Blessed John Merlini for the Congregation (the “*Institute*”)**

**Leader:** As members of the Precious Blood Family, we join him in this prayer.

My Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you with all the outpouring of my spirit for that infinite goodness with which you have deigned to call me into the number of those who militate under the auspices of your most precious Blood...Give all members abundance of graces to live closely united with you. Spread your mercies on all the benefactors of our houses. Look with compassion upon so many souls redeemed by you. Grant that all the religious and civic activities that the Institute presents for the benefit of the people may bear many fruits...Oh, Blood of my Jesus, strengthen my prayers and make me holy! Most Holy Mary, my dear Mother, to you I commend myself, in you I trust...Angels of heaven and particularly you, my guardian angel, present my plea to Jesus and Mary, and let it be fully answered. St. Gaspar, St. Francis Xavier, Saints my advocates and protectors, all Saints of heaven, pray for the Institute, for me, for all. Amen.

Our Lady of the Most Precious Blood, pray for us.  
St. Gaspar, pray for us, St. Maria De Mattias, pray for us,  
St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.  
Blessed John Merlini, pray for us.

### **The Jubilee Prayer**

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