

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.

JANUARY CONTEMPLATION

“Be brave because God wants us to be humble but confident; however, do not cease to enlighten others in all circumstances.

It is distressing to know the will of God and to remain silent, due to weakness of spirit...”

(Bl. John Merlini, *Letter 38*)¹

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 the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected, we pray to the Lord. **R/.**

God of compassion, look with favor upon all who work and pray for the unity of divided Christian communities, we pray to the Lord. **R/.**

That our country more fully embraces the culture of life, recognizing in each person the image of God Himself, 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.

¹On January 12, 2025 Venerable John Merlini, 3rd 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: (*1 Eph 3:14-21*)

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: (*Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab*)

Response: Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way.

O LORD, you have probed me and you know me; you know when I sit and when I stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rest you scrutinize, with all my ways you are familiar. *R/.*

Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence where can I flee? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I sink to the nether world, you are present there. *R/.*

If I take the wings of the dawn, if I settle at the farthest limits of the sea, Even there your hand shall guide me, and your right hand hold me fast. *R/.*

Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works. *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*, 2

In the letter to the Thessalonians we read: you must not “grieve as others do who have no hope” (*1 Th 4:13*). Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well. So now we can say: Christianity was not only “good news”—the communication of a hitherto unknown content. In our language we would say: the Christian message was not only “informative” but “performative”. That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known—it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing. The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.

Silent Reflection

Leader: Prayer for January

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. 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