

## 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.

### MAY CONTEMPLATION

*“Let us pray the Most Blessed Lady of Sorrows, so that she may help us, with a strong arm.”*

(Bl. John Merlini, *Letter 26*<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 working conditions. Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

That all mothers may find in Mary the example and strength to carry out their vocation, 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.*

#### 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.

<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.

**Scripture Reading:** (*Eph 4:1-6*)

*A reading from the letter to the Ephesians*

Brothers and sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace; one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:** (*Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6*)

**Response:** *Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.*

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.  
For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. *R/.*

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD? Or who may stand in his holy place?  
He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain. *R/.*

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his savior.  
Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. *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*, 49.50**

The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by—people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way. Who more than Mary could be a star of hope for us?

From the Cross you received a new mission. From the Cross you became a mother in a new way: the mother of all those who believe in your Son Jesus and wish to follow him. The sword of sorrow pierced your heart. Did hope die? Did the world remain definitively without light, and life without purpose? ...The joy of the Resurrection touched your heart and united you in a new way to the disciples, destined to become the family of Jesus through faith...Thus you remain in the midst of the disciples as their Mother, as the Mother of hope. Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to his Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!

***Silent Reflection***

**Leader: Prayer for May - Prayer for Mothers**

Father, we thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb. You have given to woman the capacity of participating with you in the creation of new life. May your holy spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them that they may worthily foster the faith of their children. May they ever follow the example of Mary, Mother of Our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. 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