



Fanning the Flames of Hope: JUBILEE YEAR 2025

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**WE HAVE THIS HOPE
AS AN ANCHOR FOR
THE SOUL, FIRM AND
SECURE.”**

(HEB 6:19)



What is hope? Hope is the anchor that sustains us through life's storms, keeping us steady when waves of uncertainty threaten to pull us adrift. It is more than a support — it is a compass, steering us toward the promise of eternal life and the assurance of the shore, even when it feels far away.

In moments of loss or struggle, hope lifts our gaze above the hardship, reminding us of a brighter future, and providing the strength to move ahead. It serves as an internal calm that requires faith and trust, anchoring our souls in God's promises and guiding us toward peace, love, and fulfillment.

Jubilee Year of Hope

On December 29, 2024, all dioceses across the world were asked by Pope Francis to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening for the Jubilee Year entitled Pilgrims of Hope — which is a Holy Year.

It is estimated that over 35 million Catholics will make a pilgrimage to Rome and visit St. Peter's Basilica this year, to pass through the Holy Doors in this 2025 Year of the Jubilee. That is more than five times the normal number of visitors to Rome in any given year. This represents the significance and acknowledgment of a Jubilee Year across the world. The Jubilee Year ends January 6, 2026, with the closing of the doors at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

The historical and biblical significance of a Jubilee Year began with a proclamation of the first Holy Year by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 with a Papal Bull. It was declared that every 50 years a Jubilee would be celebrated to restore harmony in the world with a specific grace for the forgiveness of sins. This forgiveness would be similar to the new beginning Christians receive through baptism for the forgiveness of Original Sin. Over time, the Jubilee Year has come to be celebrated every 25 years. However, the pope has the opportunity to declare a Jubilee Year anytime he sees a need for God's people. The most recent Jubilee year was 2016, when the focus was on mercy.

Indulgence for Pilgrims of Hope

This Jubilee Year, the Pope has granted an indulgence. An indulgence is an extraordinary act of divine mercy. While the sacrament of reconciliation removes guilt with



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JUBILEE PLANS**

forgiveness, sin leaves an injustice in life that demands to be rectified. An indulgence is a lavish outpouring of God's mercy, granted through the keys given to St. Peter, that absolves not only the guilt of sin but all just punishment for sin as well.

To meet the requirements to gain an indulgence, there must be a pilgrimage, prayer for the intention of the Holy Father, reception of the Eucharist in the context of Mass, and celebration of the sacrament of penance within 20 days. Those are the only requirements, and no further action or acknowledgment is needed from any clergy (priest or bishop).

The Papal Bull (located on the Vatican website) shares a message of hope specifically addressed for the following reasons: those who promote life, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants, and the sharing of goods of the earth.

Our Youth in Northern Nevada

For our youth and young adults, hope is visible and alive. At SEEK, an annual Catholic young adult conference organized by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS),

17,000 people

came together in

January in Salt Lake City, Utah, to

take a step deeper into their faith.

Each day, participants prayed the Family Rosary Across America on Relevant Radio, attended Mass, adoration, and a variety of teaching sessions. On the main stage they heard dynamic presentations from great Catholic speakers featuring Father Mike Schmitz, Msgr. James Shea, Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, and Jason Evert, among others.

From the state of Nevada, 100 people traveled to the conference. Fifty students from University of Nevada (UNR and UNLV campuses), Truckee Meadows Community College, and Great Basin College along with 50 adults from FOCUS Missionaries, seminarians, priests, and young adults joined with Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg to worship and grow together.

Sharing the Message of Hope

Bishop Mueggenborg served as the main celebrant for Day Two Mass at SEEK. His homily deeply resonated with the hearts of many when he shared the profundity of the Eucharist with each person, "There is no greater joy, no greater honor, no greater identity, and it's all God's gift to you in this Mass. Nothing else and nothing less. Seek to know who you are in Christ Jesus." The group of students

who attended had a unique opportunity to serve as a host campus. They welcomed attendees, directed traffic to the various sessions, and set up for the evening entertainment. As a group, they enjoyed the friendships and experiences that were a part of special service.

The SEEK25 conference has hearts on fire for Christ and his Church in such a way that it supports the growth and building of the Catholic Church in Northern Nevada. Each person who attended had encounters that will continue to form their faith lives well after the conference.

Witnesses of Hope

Jonathan Dummer, a student at UNR and a cantor at the Our Lady of Wisdom Newman Center (OLWNC) said, "It gives me hope to see how healthy the Church is, and how much wisdom is there. The younger generation is hungry for it. This was my second time attending SEEK, and the conference has been a life-affirming experience for me. SEEK is for everyone. To witness 17,000 people in reverence at Mass is understated beauty. The Holy Spirit moves among us, and we can all be guided by the radical love of Jesus Christ. God brought me home." Jonathan converted from Episcopalian faith to Catholicism in 2023 after encountering an unavoidable stir in his heart, visits to the OLWNC and Mass, and experiencing the direct involvement of Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg.

After struggling with addiction, lust, and much more, student Steven Salas attended SEEK this year needing a turning point in his life. He found teachings and blessings at SEEK that have become the foundation of his everyday life. "SEEK just didn't change my life, it gave me the tools to become the man I've always aspired to be," said Steven. His experience was truly transformative and not only deepened his faith, but introduced him to genuine and reliable friends. "A moving moment for me was a talk on spiritual warfare. My eyes were opened about the ongoing battle between God and the forces of evil. I must learn to lean on God's strength. He is my rock and my reason for hope."

Places Of Hope

Across the Diocese of Reno, hope is both a contemplative and an actively visible practice. The parishes designated as Jubilee pilgrimage destinations are St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral (Reno), St. Mary's in Mountains (Virginia City), Holy Family (Yerington), and Saint Joseph (Elko). A visit to any of these churches satisfies the pilgrimage requirement for a Jubilee indulgence.

View the website and connect with your parish for all upcoming activities across the diocese in recognition of this Jubilee Year. Plan your visit to a Jubilee-designated church to receive an indulgence. †

