

GENERAL DECREE

Crux spes nobis



The Cross gives us hope because it signifies the desire of Jesus to bear, in our place, the punishment for our sins, in short, to save us. Therefore, during this Jubilee of Hope, I call upon all the Faithful of the Diocese of Saint Cloud, by pilgrimages and visits to sacred spaces; by prayers and works of mercy; to bear the burdens of our neighbors, both those here on earth and those being purified on the threshold of Heaven.

To that end, having received special faculties from the Sacred Penitentiary, **I hereby exhort the faithful to carry out any of the following acts to obtain, under the usual conditions, a Plenary Indulgence:**

§1 A pilgrimage or at least a pious visit to any of the following sacred places — the Cathedral of St. Mary; the Shrine of St. Cloud in the Cathedral of St. Mary; the Grasshopper Chapel in Cold Spring; the Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia; the Shrine of St. Peregrine in Collegeville; the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Sauk Centre; the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, oratory of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls; the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, oratory of the Benedictine Sisters in St. Joseph; the oratory in the Poor Clare Monastery in Sauk Rapids; any church of your Area Catholic Community which you have not yet visited.

Pilgrimages should be marked by a spirit of prayer and reflection while on the journey and, at the destination, should include the celebration of Mass; or a celebration of the Word of God; or a penitential celebration culminating in the opportunity for individual confession and absolution; or praying the Liturgy of the Hours, the Way of the Cross or the Rosary.

Pious visits should include at least 10 minutes of prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed and the Hail Mary or other Marian invocations.

Those who, because of illness, vows, or other grave cause find it impossible to participate in these pilgrimages and pious visits may still obtain the Plenary Indulgence if, even apart from the usual conditions, they are repentant of sin, pray the Our Father, the Creed, and at least one other prayer, and join themselves in spirit to those making the pilgrimages and pious visits. For their part, pilgrims, pious visitors, and those responsible for sacred places, while being careful not to disrupt sacred celebrations, should use modern means of communication (texts, phone calls, broadcasts via internet, etc.) to enable the homebound and others to better participate.

§2 An act of charity — visiting those in need or difficulty, such as the homebound, prisoners, or the ill; fasting for a day from virtual distractions such as media and social networks; making a donation of time or treasure to the poor, to works of the Church, or to the service of the whole human community; any of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy.

An Extraordinary Opportunity for the Jubilee Year — Two Plenary Indulgences a Day

As a generous grace for this Jubilee, the Holy Father has permitted that, contrary to the usual rule that allows the reception of only one Plenary Indulgence a day, each of the faithful may, with a second reception of Holy Communion in the context of a Eucharistic Liturgy and the completion of a second act to which a Plenary Indulgence is attached, apply that indulgence to the dead.

This decree is promulgated by publication in the Central Minnesota Catholic; it is effective from December 24, 2024, through January 6, 2026.

Given at the Chancery, the Memorial of St. Josaphat, the 12th Day of November, the Year of Our Lord 2024.

+ Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.

+Patrick M. Neary, CSC
Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud
Prot. No. 170-24

Joe Towalski

Joe Towalski
Chancellor

'Jubilee Passport: Pilgrims of Hope' is a unique pilgrimage activity for all ages

In the papal bull announcing the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis asks the faithful to find "suitable ways for the Holy Year to be planned and celebrated with deep faith, lively hope and active charity."

To assist in this journey, the Diocese of St. Cloud presents the "Jubilee Passport: Pilgrims of Hope" project, sponsored by Catholic United Financial. This activity can be completed individually, as a family or as a group.

Just as the jubilee logo features "four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth," people are encouraged to pilgrimage across the diocese serving as beacons of hope ignited by prayers and actions.

By participating in these holy pilgrimages and practices, participants may be eligible to receive plenary indulgences (Read the bishop's decree and see page 15 to learn more about plenary indulgences).

Simply cut out the passport below or download a free pdf at stcdio.org. Once you have completed a "stamp," simply check off the related image.

Sacred Spaces and Sites

Our diocese is home to five religious communities and a variety of other sacred places. During the Jubilee Year, pilgrims are encouraged to visit the sites listed in the passport or come up with their own pilgrimage options. Additionally, the Bishop's Choice stamp encourages pilgrims to visit other parishes around the diocese, particularly those in your Area Catholic Community that you have not yet or rarely visited.

The Works of Mercy

During the Jubilee Year, the Holy Father has encouraged people to make a dedicated effort to partake in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Jubilee 2025: "Pilgrims of Hope"

Pope Francis proclaimed 2025 a holy year of hope. The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the holy year because it represents the journey each person makes in this life. The St. Cloud Diocese is home to many sacred sites for people to visit. Some are listed below or you are invited to come up with your own. The Holy Father also encourages people to perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy throughout the year. Cross off each stamp for every act or pilgrimage you make.

***Pilgrims are especially encouraged to visit each of the parishes in their Area Catholic Community.*

Possible pilgrimage sites:

Sacred sites and shrines:

- The Shrine of St. Peregrine, martyr, Saint John's Abbey, Collegetown
- The Shrine of St. Odilia, Crosier Priory, Onamia
- Assumption (Grasshopper) Chapel, Cold Spring
- Divine Mercy Shrine, St. Paul Church, Sauk Centre
- The Shrine of St. Cloud, St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud

Pray with religious communities:

- The monks of St. John's Abbey, Collegetown
- The Crosier Fathers and Brothers, Onamia
- The Poor Clare Sisters, Sauk Rapids
- The Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, St. Joseph
- The Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Little Falls

Sponsored by:



120 10th Ave. N, St. Cloud
catholicunitedfinancial.org

JUBILEE PASSPORT Pilgrims of Hope



December 24, 2024 - January 6, 2026

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Spend time at a hospital, nursing home or with someone you know who is sick.
- Donate used clothing to a shelter, buy diapers for a pregnancy resource center or give away gently used winter garments to those in need.
- Help serve a meal at your parish or local organization or surprise a neighbor with a meal.
- Visit the grave of a loved one, ask for a Mass to be celebrated in their memory or pray for them in a special way.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Learn more about your faith by choosing to read a Catholic book.
- Write a letter or card to someone who is suffering or grieving.
- Participate in the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Keep a book of prayer intentions and write down all the names of the people you said you would pray for.

Pilgrim's Choice

Each pilgrim is encouraged to engage in a devotion or faith practice such as praying a litany, rosary or spending time with the Blessed Sacrament. Or, use this "free space" to visit an unmentioned holy site or perform an additional act of mercy.

Special thanks to our sponsor Catholic United Financial

Catholic United Financial is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial services organization, connecting people of faith, protecting their future and generously impacting parishes, schools and communities.

Pilgrims are invited to make a special stop during the year at CUF's St. Cloud downtown location during normal business hours to pray, reflect on the theme of hope and visit with CUF staff.

Catholic United Financial Center

120 10th Ave. N., St. Cloud

Phone: 800-568-6670

Website: catholicunitedfinancial.org

For more information about the Jubilee Year and other related resources, visit <https://stcdio.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/>.

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY		SACRED SHRINES AND SITES		SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY	
					
					
					
	<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">PILGRIM'S CHOICE</div>			<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">BISHOP'S CHOICE</div>	

What is an indulgence?

BY JENNA MARIE COOPER, OSV NEWS



Q: Please explain what an indulgence is and how it can reduce or eliminate the time a soul must spend in purgatory.

A: Indulgences are perhaps one of the more misunderstood parts of Catholic practice. But indulgences are deeply rooted in several key Catholic theological concepts, such as the nature of purgatory, the Church's authority, the spiritual power of prayer and sacrifice and the communion of saints.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us a quick working definition of an indulgence when it states: "Through indulgences the faithful can obtain the remission of temporal punishment resulting from sin for themselves and also for the souls in Purgatory." (CCC, No. 1498)

Canon 992 of the Code of Canon Law further tells us: "A member of Christ's faithful who is properly disposed and who fulfils certain specific conditions, may gain an indulgence by the help of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints."

Breaking this down into more practical terms,

an indulgence is a spiritual benefit attached to certain pious acts specified by the Holy Father — such as, for example, visiting a designated pilgrimage site during a Jubilee Year which can eliminate (in the case of a "plenary indulgence") or reduce (with a "partial indulgence") the amount of time a soul spends in purgatory.

In addition to devoutly completing the pious act in question, the one seeking to earn a plenary indulgence must also:

- 1. Pray for the pope's intentions;**
- 2. Make a good confession and receive Holy Communion close to the time of earning the indulgence; and,**
- 3. Be sincerely repentant of their sins, to the point of no longer having any sense of attachment to sin.**

While the process of earning an indulgence is relatively straightforward, the spiritual mechanics of how and why indulgences work can be a bit more subtle.

First of all, it's important to keep in mind that souls in purgatory are all destined for heaven, and thus that they

have already repented of and been forgiven for their sins. We also need to understand that, strictly speaking, purgatory is a state outside of linear time as we experience it on earth. So even though we speak of purgatory as a time of "temporal punishment," this does not mean that purgatory is akin to a jail sentence with indulgences being like a sort of parole.

Recalling the reminder of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that "every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death" (CCC, No. 1472), we can more accurately understand purgatory as a phase of spiritual purification to prepare souls still affected by the spiritual consequences of their sins to enter eventually into the full presence of God in heaven.

Just as our prayers and sacrifices can help us and others grow closer to God in this life, the Church teaches that we can help the souls in purgatory move farther along on their spiritual journey even after their deaths. While our

simple prayers can always help the souls in purgatory, indulgences are an especially powerful means of providing this kind of spiritual assistance.

Indulgences work because we believe that many of the Church's saints already prayed, sacrificed and patiently suffered enough during their earthly lives to have already have been purified enough to enter heaven; and that all their additional good deeds on top of what was needed for their own salvation created a kind of "surplus" of grace which the catechism refers to as "the Church's treasury." (CCC, No. 1476)

Because the Holy Father, as the successor to St. Peter, shares in St. Peter's power to "bind and loose" (Matthew 16:19), the pope therefore has the power to distribute the extra grace in the Church's treasury to souls that need it. Indulgences are essentially the means by which the pope distributes these spiritual goods.

Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News.