



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE  
OF CHARLESTON**  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In 2025, the Universal Church will celebrate the Jubilee year. Jubilee years are ordinarily celebrated every 25 years in the Church and are a special opportunity for all faithful to renew their faith and experience the Lord's forgiveness. I am confident that the coming Jubilee will be a transformative year for our diocese.

This theme in 2025 is *Pilgrims of Hope*. The work of the Holy Spirit is clear as this theme will be taken up by the Church universally just as we begin our own pilgrimage of hope locally through *Via Fidelis*. Our first annual theme is *Proclaim the Faith*. This very faith we proclaim, the Gospel or *kerygma* of forgiveness and salvation in Christ, is the very cause of our hope! This grace-filled converging of the Jubilee and *Via Fidelis* gives us confidence that we are called to journey ever closer to our loving Savior.

One way to remember that we are a pilgrim Church is to engage in pilgrimages. A decree was issued from the Holy Father's Major Penitentiary, Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, in May of 2024 granting a plenary indulgence for pilgrimages to the major basilicas in Rome and three basilicas in the Holy Land. The decree also specified that pilgrims could visit a Cathedral, other church or sacred place, that was designated by the local ordinary. I am excited to announce that we will have ample opportunities to encounter and receive this special grace.

Several of our parishes are offering exciting pilgrimages to Rome, and I highly encourage taking advantage of these opportunities. I realize that this is not a realistic possibility for everyone.

Therefore, I am happy to share that I have also identified four pilgrimage locations within South Carolina that will be eligible for the jubilee indulgence. Those locations are the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston, the Basilica of St. Peter in Columbia, St. Mary Church in Greenville, and historic St. Mary, Help of Christians Church in Aiken.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. May we journey together along the faithful way as *Pilgrims of Hope* to *Proclaim the Faith* this year!

In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS  
*Bishop of Charleston*