

Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope

Celebrating the Holy Year 2025 Together

Diocese of Erie
August 2025



YEAR OF JUBILEE



As we reflect on family this month, this group was all smiles after the Natural Family Planning Mass at St. Peter Cathedral on Sunday, July 20. (Photo/Diocese of Erie)

Welcome to the *Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope* monthly newsletter. Join us each month for ways to stay connected and to celebrate this Holy Year.

CALLED TO CONNECT

This month we honor the family, the domestic church. Our families are where many of us live our most ordinary and our most profound joys and sorrows. From stubbed toes to long-awaited weddings, our joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous mysteries play out in the domestic Church.

*The theological virtue of hope orients and sustains us through all these mysteries. In Christian art, hope is often symbolized by an anchor—a reminder that the hope of the Gospel is not wishful thinking. Instead, it is a deep and grounding desire for God's promises combined with the trust that he will fulfill them. It assures us of our heavenly home, that God's love never fails, that evil and suffering do not have the final word and that God cares for those we love even more than we do. **At times, life's struggles can challenge our hope, but it is God himself who renews that hope within us, giving us the strength to trust him until his promises are fulfilled.***

In this Jubilee year, may your family be a place where hope flourishes, rooted in the assurance that God is always near, always at work and always up to something good.

Kate Wilson

Director for Marriage and Family Life (Faith Formation Office, Diocese of Erie)



As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

According to the Scriptures Joshua 24:15



PRAYER

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY FROM POPE FRANCIS'S "AMORIS LAETITIA" ("THE JOY OF LOVE"):

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer
Amen.

CELEBRATIONS

Key events: Feast of the Transfiguration; Assumption of Mary; Queenship of Mary

Mass with the Holy Father/Event location:

- **August 3** - Jubilee of Youth, Tor Vergata
- **August 15** - Feast of the Assumption, Castel Gandolfo

HEY, KIDS OF CHRIST!

Jubilee vocab: Domestic Church - A special name for your family at home when you pray together, love each other and live like Jesus. It means your home is a little church where God's love grows every day!

Hey, Kids of Christ! I'm Luce, the Jubilee mascot, and I'm so excited to help you celebrate the special gift of family—the people God gave us to love and care for! Ask a grown-up to help you plan a **"Family Blessing Day"** at home!



Do one kind thing for each person in your family—like setting the table, drawing them a picture or giving them a big hug. Then, ask everyone to sit together and say one thing they love about each other and end by praying together. Don't forget—**every time you show love at home; you're spreading God's light!**



Saint Monica is the patron saint of mothers, wives and families known for her unwavering faith and prayers for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine.

Photo/OurSundayVisitor.com

FAITHFUL FACTS!

The Church sees marriage and family life as a vocation—just as sacred as priesthood or religious life. In *Familiaris Consortio*, Pope St. John Paul II wrote that spouses and parents are called to be “the first and foremost evangelizers.” The daily work of raising children, loving a spouse and staying faithful is also a true path to holiness.

LIVING THE MISSION

How do I respond to moments of tension, frustration or hurt within my family—with silence, anger or with the mercy of Christ?

Prayerfully reflect on a recent moment of conflict or misunderstanding in your family. Ask God to help you see it through his eyes. Is there someone you need to forgive—or ask forgiveness from? Take a small but meaningful step toward healing: write a note, offer a hug, say a prayer together or simply listen.

