

Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope

Celebrating the Holy Year 2025 Together

Diocese of Erie
July 2025



YEAR OF JUBILEE



This July, we reflect on *Laudato Si'* and our call to care for our common home. Photo provided by Cathedral Preparatory School

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

When Pope Francis announced this Jubilee, he observed, “The Jubilee reminds us that the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few but for everyone.” He pointed to the basis for the Jubilee in Leviticus 25 and reminded us to hear the prophets: the universal destination of goods is at the heart of our theology of creation. We understand God’s creation best when we consider what is good for all and not only what is good for some.

This reminder builds on the teaching Pope Francis gave us in ‘*Laudato Si'*. There, he reinforced the universal destination of goods and gave us a renewed image of creation in which everything and everyone is connected. **Our proper care and concern for all creation affirms the connections God has woven between all its parts.**

Pope Francis called us to be “tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.” As the Church, the Body of Christ, we can answer his call by modeling the sharing of goods and the care of creation for the world. May God, our creator, empower us to be signs of hope in Christ’s footsteps.

Reverend T. Shane Matthew

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“For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him.”

~~~~~ According to the Scriptures Colossians 1:16 ~~~~~



## PRAYER

### POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

Lord Jesus... your Church turns her attention to all the young people in the world. We pray that they might boldly take charge of their lives, aim for the most beautiful and profound things of life and always keep their hearts unencumbered. Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them respond to the call you make to each of them, to realize a proper plan of life and achieve happiness. Keep their hearts open to dreaming great dreams and make them concerned for the good of others. Like the Beloved Disciple, may they stand at the foot of the Cross, to receive your mother as a gift from You. May they be witnesses to your Resurrection and be aware that you are at their side as they joyously proclaim you as Lord. Amen.

## CELEBRATIONS

### Key dates:

- **July 28-29** - Jubilee of Digital Missionaries and Catholic Influencers
- **July 28-August 3** - Jubilee of Young Adults and Young People

## HEY, KIDS OF CHRIST!

**Jubilee vocab: Sacrament** - A special way God shows his love and grace. Each sacrament helps us become closer to God in a different way.

Hey, Kids of Christ! I'm Luce, the Jubilee mascot, and I want to help you share God's love by taking care of the Earth—our beautiful home that God created! **Pope Francis reminded us in 'Laudato Si' that we should protect nature, animals and people because they are all part of God's creation.** Go on a "Creation Walk" with your family or friends (with a grown-up too) and look for three beautiful things God made, like flowers, birds or trees. Then, draw a picture of what you saw and think of ways to care for them—like turning off lights, picking up litter or planting flowers. Finish with a prayer asking God to help us love and protect the Earth.



## SAINT OF THE MONTH



**Blessed (and soon to be Saint) Pier Giorgio Frassati** is the patron of young adults, athletes and world youth day.

## FAITHFUL FACTS!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on the environment. Uniquely, it's addressed not just to bishops or Catholics, but to everyone on the planet—making it the only encyclical with a truly global audience and a sole focus on environmental care.

## LIVING THE MISSION

How am I using my voice and presence—both online and in real life—to uplift, guide and accompany young people in their faith journey? This month, prayerfully consider one young person in your life—whether online or offline—and intentionally reach out with a message of encouragement, a resource that could inspire their faith or simply a listening ear. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your digital presence so that it reflects Christ's love and hope in the digital world.

