

**Instruction Regarding the Initiatives  
and Opportunities to Benefit the Christian Faithful in  
The Diocese of Lake Charles  
For the Jubilee Year 2025**

**December 1, 2024**

In the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, called by His Holiness Pope Francis, the faithful are invited to become Pilgrims of Hope and to turn to the generosity of God's Mercy. The Supreme Pontiff has opened the treasury of God's Mercy, providing various opportunities to obtain a Plenary Indulgence. Many of these opportunities are detailed in the document *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence During the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 Called by His Holiness Pope Francis* released by the Apostolic Penitentiary.

In addition to those established by the Apostolic Penitentiary, local Ordinaries are encouraged to consider the needs of the faithful in their dioceses. They should designate Churches or other sacred places for pilgrims to visit to receive indulgences. This document outlines how the faithful in the Diocese of Lake Charles can obtain indulgences locally. As a reminder, in this Jubilee year, all other indulgences universally and locally previously granted remain in effect.

To receive a Plenary Indulgence for each indulgence, the faithful must fulfill the usual conditions: They should be motivated by a spirit of charity, purified through the sacrament of penance (within 20 days), refreshed by Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff (a Hail Mary, an Our Father, and a Glory Be is sufficient). As with all indulgences, the faithful must be "truly repentant and free from all affection for sin" (cf. *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, IV ed., norm. 20, 1). If these conditions are met and the faithful complete a pilgrimage, pious visit, or a charitable act, they will receive a Plenary Indulgence. The list of churches and holy sites are listed below as well as how to complete a pilgrimage, pious visit, and charitable act.

Unique to this Jubilee Year, "the faithful who perform an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory can obtain the plenary indulgence twice on the same day—applicable only to the deceased—if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Angelo Cardinal De Donatis, *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence During the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 Called by His Holiness Pope Francis*, (13 May 2024).

## **Pilgrimage Churches and Holy Sites where the faithful can obtain a Plenary Indulgence:**

1. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles
2. Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lake Charles
3. Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur
4. Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings
  
5. The Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron
6. The Parochial Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette in Sulphur

## **Pilgrimages:**

For the Jubilee year, a pilgrimage is a planned journey that should be led by a priest or deacon who offers Holy Mass, a Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Hours (Office of Readings, Lauds, Vespers), the Via Crucis (the Way of the Cross), the Marian Rosary, the recitation of the Akathist hymn, or a penance service as established in the Rite of Penance (form II). Priests and deacons are encouraged to lead the faithful on a pilgrimage to designated Pilgrimage Churches and Holy Sites. However, they should make preparations and plans with those locations before their arrival.

## **Pious Visits:**

Even if the faithful do not have the opportunity to participate under the direction of a priest or deacon for a pilgrimage, they may make a pious visit to these locations individually or in a group. A pious visit involves spending a suitable amount of time in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.

## **Charitable Acts:**

*Spes non confundit* calls the faithful to be “tangible signs of hope,” by performing, with a devout spirit for an appropriate amount of time, works of charity. These works of charity include visiting the sick, imprisoned, lonely elderly, and the disabled. While all these opportunities are suitable to receive the indulgence, the faithful in the diocese are encouraged to offer an act of charity by volunteering at Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities provides many food distributions across the diocese, and the Jubilee Year is a great time to serve those in need.