

APRIL 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee Newsletter



Hope: "Do Not Forget the Works of the Lord"

by Fr. Eric Garris, Diocesan Director of Vocations

As we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded that God's Word is a source of encouragement and strength. *Dei Verbum*, the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, reminds us that God has spoken and continues to speak to us through His Word, inviting us to trust in His love and look forward with hope.

"GOD HAS SPOKEN AND CONTINUES TO SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD."

Hope is a gift that grows when we listen to God's promises. *Dei Verbum* tells us that by believing in His message, we learn to hope, and through hope, we grow in love. From the very beginning, even after humanity's first sin, God did not abandon us. Throughout history, He has never abandoned us, always leading us toward salvation.

Scripture is meant to fill us with hope. As St. Paul writes, "For whatever was written previously [in Scripture] was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (Rom. 15:4). The more we reflect on God's Word, the more we recognize His faithfulness in our lives.

This Jubilee invites us to remember how God has been present in our personal journeys. The psalmist urges, "Do not forget the works of the Lord" (Ps. 78), and do not forget the words of the Lord. Our hope is strengthened when we recall His goodness and His Word spoken and revealed. May we turn to Scripture and the Eucharist with open hearts, allowing God's promises to renew our trust and hope in His unending love.



Witnesses of Hope

St. Dymphna

Born in Ireland in the 7th century, Dymphna took a vow of chastity and consecrated herself to Christ at the age of 14. When her mother died, Dymphna's father, who was king of a small territory at the time, was utterly grief-stricken, and his counselors advised him to remarry. When no suitable match was found, the counselors tempted the king to marry his own daughter; so deteriorated was his mental state that the king consented. Upon hearing this, Dymphna fled the castle to the town of Geel in Belgium where she built a hospital and cared for the poor and the sick. Her father eventually found her, and enraged at her refusal to marry him, he drew his sword and beheaded her.

Dymphna soon became known as the Lily of Eire and is venerated as a patroness of those with mental illness and victims of incest. May she intercede for us and all those who face challenges from within and without in following Christ.

Get Involved in Words and Deeds

Living a hope-filled life brings us to charity or selfless love. Loving God with all of our being and loving our neighbors as our self is no small task. Yet families can foster and practice this virtue in their words and deeds. When we think and speak kindly of others, we will treat them with the dignity they deserve. Encourage one another to look for the good in the other person, especially when one would like to complain or tell mom or dad what the other person did wrong. The example of adults is vital as children often follow the example of the adults in their lives. Our kids are more likely to pick it up by hearing us speaking kindly of others.

On April 5, people of all ages are encouraged to participate in the Diocesan Day of Service as individuals, families, and parish or school groups in service activities in their local community. Join us! Learn more by visiting dioceseofcleveland.org/eucharist and click on “[Year of Mission](#)” for the [Day of Service Guide](#) for suggestions and [Participant Journal](#).



“CHARITY UPHOLDS AND PURIFIES OUR HUMAN ABILITY TO LOVE, AND RAISES IT TO THE SUPERNATURAL PERFECTION OF DIVINE LOVE.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1827

Upcoming Events

A JUBILEE REVIVAL FOR A FLOURISHING CHURCH W/FR. DAMIAN FERENCE

APR 10 | Immaculate Conception, Madison

APR 22 | St. Mary, Chardon

APR 24 | Nativity of the BVM, Lorain

APR 28 | Queen of Heaven, Uniontown

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

APR 5 | St. Agnes / Our Lady of Fatima, Cleveland

DIOCESAN DAY OF SERVICE

Apr 5 | All across the diocese

How does being a Pilgrim of Hope lead to Charity?

As we continue to grow as Pilgrims of Hope, we recognize that living the Holy Spirit's fruit of Charity involves embodying selfless love in all aspects of our lives. Charity is not just about giving, but about giving with a heart full of compassion and kindness, reflecting God's love for all people. In this special year, we are called to see others through the eyes of Christ—especially the marginalized, poor, and suffering—and offer our time, resources, and support without expecting anything in return. Charity is rooted in humility and an openness to serve, recognizing that true love seeks the good of others above oneself. By sharing the love and hope we receive from God, we become instruments of His grace and mercy in the world. As we strive to live the fruit of charity, we help to bring about the hope and renewal that the Jubilee Year promises.



Catholic Diocese
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