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Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee Newsletter



The Jubilee of Hope and the Missionary Call of Ad Gentes

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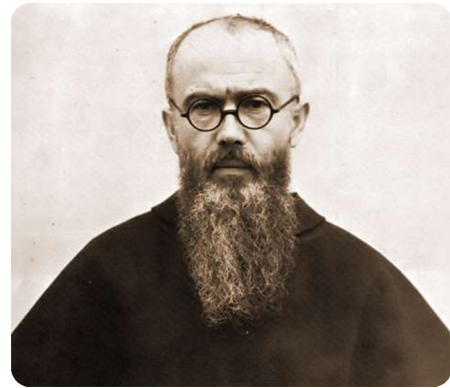
The Jubilee Year of Hope is a time of renewal, reflection, and recommitment to its missionary identity—a mission that *Ad Gentes*, the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church, proclaims as central to the Church's very nature. Rooted in the mission of the Trinity and Christ's own sending forth, *Ad Gentes* reminds us that the Church exists to evangelize. It is not enough for the Church to possess the Gospel; we must proclaim it boldly to all nations.

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This missionary call is not confined by geography, language, or culture. The Gospel, as *Ad Gentes* emphasizes, must be shared with every person, everywhere. The document reaffirms that evangelization is not the work of a few, but the shared responsibility of all the baptized. Every Christian is called to be a missionary disciple, participating in God's mission with courage and humility. In this Jubilee Year, we are invited to embrace our role in this mission with new fervor. *Ad Gentes* teaches that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of mission, guiding the Church in every age.

A key insight from *Ad Gentes* is the importance of inculturation—the respectful integration of the Gospel into every culture. The Jubilee is a unique opportunity to celebrate the rich tapestry of human cultures, recognizing how in every walk of life, our hope is amplified when our lives transformed by God's grace. This is not about uniformity, but about faithful proclamation that resonates in every heart and context.

Ultimately, the Jubilee of Hope becomes not just a celebration, but a sending forth. It is a call to go out with joy, to encounter others, and to share the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Just as the early Church grew through witness and unity, so too will the Church today flourish when we live as missionary disciples, on fire with the love of God and the desire to make Him known.



Witnesses of Hope

St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Maximilian Kolbe was born as Raymund Kolbe in 1894 in the Kingdom of Poland. At the age of 12, he experienced a vision of Our Lady in which she offered him two crowns: a white one, indicating a commitment to purity; and a red one, signifying martyrdom. Our Lady asked Raymund which he would accept, to which he replied that he would accept both. Only one year later, he entered the Conventual Franciscan Friars and given the religious name Maximilian. In 1941, Maximilian was arrested by the Nazis and eventually transferred to Auschwitz. At the concentration camp, Maximilian volunteered to take the place of a man threatened with starvation, as the man pleaded with the Nazis to free him for the sake of his family. Maximilian survived two weeks of starvation, after which he died by lethal injection.

Maximilian Kolbe laid down his life for a man he hardly knew. That man, Franciszek Gajowniczek, was liberated after the war and reunited with his wife and children; he went on to share the story of this friar's heroic act wherever he went and was present at Maximilian's canonization in 1982. May St. Maximilian Kolbe teach us how to put the needs of others before our own and lay down our lives as Christ did for us.

Bless the Lord, My Soul! (Ps 103)

Generosity is willingly sharing the many gifts that God has given us. We can be giving, or generous, with our time, talents, and treasures. God shows us the way to be generous throughout the Bible, and one place we see this is Psalm 103.

As a family, read Psalm 103, explaining it to younger children as needed. Make note of the examples of God's generosity that you hear - you might even create a poster, picture, or list of these examples to display at home! Then, take time to explore the gifts and talents each person and the whole family have to generously share.

- What things or skills might be used to bless someone else?
- Who might you bless with your generosity?

As a family or individually, make a commitment to a specific act of generosity this month.



“IT IS BY WHAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR THE POOR THAT JESUS CHRIST WILL RECOGNIZE HIS CHOSEN ONES.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2443

Upcoming Events

THE FEST

Aug 3 | Center for Pastoral Leadership,
Wickliffe

MARY, MOTHER OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD INSTITUTE: SUMMER SESSION

Aug 5-8 | Center for Pastoral Leadership,
Wickliffe

More info at dioceseofcleveland.org/events

How does being a Pilgrim of Hope lead to Generosity?

Generosity, calls each of us to give selflessly of our time, resources, and love, reflecting God's own abundant grace. In the Jubilee Year of Hope, this virtue takes on renewed significance as the Church invites all believers to become signs of hope in a world often marked by selfishness and despair. Generosity is not limited to material giving; it includes offering forgiveness, patience, and presence to those in need. Catholics can live this fruit by supporting charitable works, volunteering in their parishes, and reaching out to the marginalized. Simple acts—sharing a meal, offering a listening ear, or donating to missions—become powerful expressions of God's love. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the generous sacrifice of Christ, generosity in this Jubilee Year helps to build communities of solidarity and faith. With this fruit of the Holy Spirit, we remind the world that in giving, we receive, and in loving, we reveal the hope of Christ.



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