

JUNE 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee Newsletter



Finding Hope in the Ministry of the Successor of St. Peter

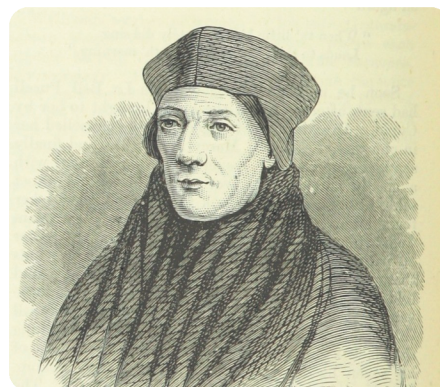
by Fr. Joseph Mamich, Secretary and Vicar for Clergy and Religious

We are in the season of new life – with recent graduations, longer days, and better weather, we cannot help but to notice and be filled with the newness around us. The great feast of Pentecost reminds us that at the first Pentecost “all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4) and that same Spirit still guides and direct us today.

Yet this June seems different, particularly after the death of Pope Francis. But our faithful and true God provides for us as we rejoice with the choice of a new Holy Father. With the election of Pope Leo XIV, a fellow American, just like with the election of Pope Francis, a new Springtime emerges in the Church.

After a loss, new life is found! Hope is renewed in the possibilities afforded by a new Holy Father. In *Christus Dominus*, the Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops, we read that “the Roman pontiff, as the successor of Peter, to whom Christ entrusted the feeding of His sheep and lambs” thus Pope Leo XIV becomes the visible sign of Christ in presence our world today (CD 2).

As the Holy Spirit inspires our new Holy Father, we remember that lay, religious, and priests must work together in transforming our Church and world. As the first disciples at the first Pentecost, we must go forth – we must go out – and we must allow the Spirit to proceed and renew the face of the earth. Perhaps, surrounded by the new life of this Pentecost, we would do well to pause in thanksgiving for the ministry of Pope Francis, offer a prayer for protection and health for Pope Leo XIV, and ask the Lord to renew our hope and to assist us in working to bring Christ to the world through our actions and words.



Witnesses of Hope

St. John Fisher

Born in the middle of the 15th century, John Fisher quickly rose to prominence in England following his education at Cambridge. In 1497, he was appointed confessor of Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII; in 1504, he became the Bishop of Rochester and was appointed the Chancellor of Cambridge where he tutored the young Prince Henry, who would grow up to be King Henry VIII. In 1527, the Bishop steadfastly opposed Henry VIII's desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon and, along with Thomas More, refused to acknowledge the King as the head of the Church in England. John Fisher was arrested for his opposition to the crown in 1534 and later beheaded.

St. John Fisher followed in the footsteps of another great saint, St. John the Baptist, in defending the Church's teaching on marriage even until death. His commitment to these principles, despite persecution and disagreement from his fellow bishops, should encourage us to always proclaim the truth in charity. May St. John Fisher pray for us and teach us how to persevere as we share the Word of God with those around us.

Learning Patience through Practice

The virtue of patience is a part of the cardinal virtue of courage because patience is about “facing difficulty well.” I’m sure you have encountered these moments already in 2025 in which you wonder “When will I get the rest, peace, or break that I have longed for? My life still is hard, difficult, or stressful.” While we have good reason to hope God can provide those things, we also need to virtue of patience to face the difficulty—of not getting the thing we want when we want it—well. Doing so takes genuine courage, for the trials we face can be daunting. But that’s why virtues require practice, and patience is a virtue after all.

One of the best ways to practice patience is by growing flowers—whether they are beautiful flowers to enjoy in the yard or in a vase on your kitchen table or plants in a garden. Bring in the whole family to plant and water the seeds while watching and taking notes as they grow. Not only can this activity be a great at-home science project, but it also helps us take not at the time it takes to get the thing we are looking for (beautiful flowers or great food)! Learning how long it takes for things to grow and change can help us frame patience at home with our family when they frustrate us, or learn patience with ourselves as we try to grow in holiness every day!



ACCORDING TO THE LORD, THE PRESENT TIME IS THE TIME OF THE SPIRIT AND OF WITNESS... IT IS A TIME OF WAITING AND WATCHING.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 672

Upcoming Events

TEEN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

Jun 14 | *St. John of the Cross and Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Euclid*

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL CLOSING MASS

Jun 28 | *Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Cleveland*

YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE

Jul 19 | *St. John Bosco and Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine, Parma Heights*

INTERGENERATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Jul 26 | *St. Paschal Baylon and St. Ann Shrine, Highland Heights*

How does being a Pilgrim of Hope lead to Patience?

Being a Pilgrim of Hope can lead us to the fruit of the gift of patience by embracing our journey with endurance and trust in God’s timing. Whether our pilgrimage is physical or spiritual, we all face moments of waiting, uncertainty, and discomfort. Each moment is an opportunity to practice patience. We can grow in this virtue by taking the time to slow down, reflecting on the meaning of each step, and surrendering our worries to God. Through prayer, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us face challenges with grace, using those moments to grow through our frustration. As we encounter others, we can remember that just as God loves us, He loves our neighbors and strangers, too. By focusing on the hope this Jubilee Year brings, we can see that even the tough moments are part of God’s plan to draw us closer to Him. By allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us, we can find deeper peace, trust, and a closer resemblance to Jesus.



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