

SEPTEMBER 2025

# Pilgrims of Hope

## *Jubilee Newsletter*



### *The Hope in Christian Education*

by Greg Coogan, Secretary of Catechetical Formation and Parish Life

The Jubilee Year's theme, Pilgrims of Hope, calls us to be more fully informed and holistic in our journey toward heaven. This invitation echoes a prolific document of the Second Vatican Council—the Declaration on Christian Education (*Gravissimum Educationis*). Published in 1965, the declaration remains strikingly relevant today as it reminds the Church of her vocation to preach, to teach, and to form the human person.

The Council Fathers present a powerful image: the Church as Mother. Like a loving mother, the Church desires that all her children be fully alive and mature in faith, recognizing their rights and responsibilities. As the declaration states: "Holy Mother the Church must be concerned with the whole of man's life, even the secular part of it insofar as it has a bearing on his heavenly calling." (GE, Introduction)

Education, then, is inseparable from human dignity. Every person has the right to be educated, and within this right is also the hope found in Christ. Christian education—whether for children, young people, or adults—provides the opportunity to encounter goodness, truth, and beauty, which lead not only to heaven but also to the flourishing of society. Educating for eternity is both the Church's duty and a shared responsibility of all her members.

The declaration emphasizes that the family is the foundation of education and human growth. Parents, as the "primary and principal educators" of their children (GE, 3), hold a sacred responsibility to form them in faith and virtue. At the same time, the Church is called to accompany all people, especially the most vulnerable, ensuring that Catholic education and religious formation remain vital instruments of evangelization and growth.

The "harmony of faith and science" is another essential theme in *Gravissimum Educationis* (no.10). Catholic colleges and universities are entrusted with the task of pursuing truth, seeking ever deeper integration between faith and reason. This union upholds the dignity of the human person and ensures that discoveries in science and human knowledge serve both humanity and God's greater glory.

Ultimately, Christian education is rooted in hope. In Christ, we discover not only the fullness of truth but also the strength to live our vocation to holiness. The virtue of hope shapes our learning, our teaching, and our daily lives. As pilgrims of hope, we walk together toward eternity, forming minds and hearts for the betterment of our world and the glory of heaven.



### Witnesses of Hope

*St. Lorenzo Ruiz*

Lorenzo Ruiz was born in the Philippines at the beginning of the 17th century. The son of a Chinese father and Filipino mother, Lorenzo was raised in the faith and served as an altar boy and calligrapher in his local parish. As a young man, he married a woman named Rosario, and they had three children. In 1636, Lorenzo's life changed when he was falsely accused of killing a Spaniard and forced to flee his family; he sought escape aboard a ship en route to Japan with three Dominican priests. Upon arriving in Japan, the passengers were arrested by the Tokugawa Shogunate on account of their Christian faith. Lorenzo was imprisoned for two years and later tortured and killed in Nagasaki with his companions for refusing to recant the faith.

The record of Lorenzo's death states his last words as follows: "I am a Catholic and wholeheartedly do accept death for God. Had I a thousand lives, all these to Him I shall offer. Do with me as you please." May St. Lorenzo Ruiz's refusal to dismiss Christ as Lord cause us to reflect on all the ways we may reject God in word and deed, and may we find strength to persevere in faith to the end.

## *Practicing Goodness Every Day*

"Good morning. Good afternoon. Good night. For goodness' sake." Our days are filled with sayings that reflect the idea of goodness—often without us even realizing they point to the goodness of God. What a powerful reminder that God shares with us life abundantly. This time of year, brings new school and family routines for many of us, along with fresh opportunities to practice goodness, a fruit of the Spirit. Whether with family members, co-workers, teammates, or classmates, goodness calls us to choose what is right—even when it's difficult. Could we challenge ourselves to refrain from arguing, lying, bitterness, gossip, and complaining? Around the family dinner table ask: "What might make God smile today?" Then talk together about how each person might put those ideas into action.

Simple good deeds—like finishing homework or chores without complaining—are everyday ways to live out goodness. Other ideas might include:

- Visiting an elderly family member or neighbor
- Giving someone a note of encouragement
- Holding the door for someone at school, work, or church
- Saying good morning or God bless you after a conversation.

Goodness isn't always grand or flashy—but it is always powerful. Let's look for small, meaningful ways to reflect God's goodness this month, and help others smile along the way.

**"TEACHER, WHAT GOOD DEED MUST I DO, TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?"  
...RECOGNIZE GOD AS THE 'ONE THERE IS WHO IS GOOD,'  
AS THE SUPREME GOOD AND THE SOURCE OF ALL GOOD."**

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2052*

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Pilgrimages**

*Bishop Malesic has designated eight parishes and three shrines as Sacred Sites, places of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Cleveland at which the plenary indulgence may be obtained.*

*Find the Sacred Site in your county, learn more about the plenary indulgence, and check out the Jubilee resources on our website.*

## *How does being a Pilgrim of Hope lead to Goodness?*

The Holy Spirit's fruit of goodness is more than doing kind deeds—it is a way of living rooted in God's truth and love. Goodness shines forth when we act with integrity, seek justice, and treat others with compassion and respect. As we continue our journey in this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are called to walk as pilgrims who trust in God's promises and goodness, and reflect His light in the world. To be a pilgrim of hope is to live with eyes fixed on Christ, sharing His goodness and love with others along the way. Our pilgrimage is not only about reaching a destination but also about becoming a witness of God's goodness in our daily lives. Each choice for goodness brings hope into a world often clouded by fear or indifference. Let us embody the Holy Spirit's fruit of goodness so that others may glimpse God's faithful love through us.



Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

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