



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

WITH MARY AND ST. LOUIS DE MONT- FORT



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JUBILEE: A gift

KNOWING THE EVENT

“Spes non confundit”: “Hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5). In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years. My thoughts turn to all those pilgrims of hope who will travel to Rome in order to experience the Holy Year and to all those others who, though unable to visit the City of the Apostles Peter and Paul, will celebrate it in their local Churches. **For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (1 Tim 1:1).**

(FRANCIS, *Spes non confundit*, 1)



BEING GUIDED BY THE WORD

Let us listen to the Word of the Lord from the letter of Saint Paul, the apostle, to the Ephesians (2:4-10)

Because of his great love for us, God, who is **rich in mercy**, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace** you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of **his grace**, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is **by grace** you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

ENTERING THE WORD

The celebration of a Holy Year has its earliest origins in the Jewish tradition of the jubilee (*yobel*) as a time of forgiveness and reconciliation. Since the 1300s this has been a special time to meditate on the great gift of divine mercy that always awaits us, as well as the importance of inner conversion. Both are necessary to be able to live out the spiritual gifts lavished on pilgrims during a Holy Year, and to renew the bond that unites all who are baptized as brothers and sisters in Christ, with all of humanity, in that everyone is loved by God. (From the resource aid *Teach us to pray*, p. 7)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

From Psalm 136

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever

² Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords.
His love endures forever.

⁴ He alone does great wonders.
His love endures forever.

²³ He remembered us in our low estate.
His love endures forever.

²⁴ He freed us from our enemies.
His love endures forever.

²⁵ He gives food to every creature.
His love endures forever.

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven.
His love endures forever.

CONFRONTING MYSELF WITH THE WORD

- How do I approach the ecclesial event of the Jubilee?
- Am I as curious as a child waiting for a present or ...?
- What will I choose to do to make the Jubilee a gift both for me and for others?



PRAYING THE WORD

Father, who through the prayer of your Son gave us the Spirit of truth, revive in us with his power the memory of the words of Jesus, to make us ready to respond to anyone who asks for the reason of the hope that dwells in us. Through Christ our Lord.

ACCOMPANIED BY MONTFORT

Hymn 7, 1-4: The solidity of Hope

The virtue of Hope I am,
I make you expect from the Lord
Grace and its reward
Through the merits of the Savior.

I am that anchor firm and stable
That steadies instability,
That unshakable pillar
That supports all holiness.

I draw all my riches
From a God so full with truth,
Faithful to all his promises
Both now and in eternity.

Here is why I am so mighty:
God wills that man hope in him,
He warns, he repeats, he
requires:
O mortal, in me place your
reliance.