



Simla Chandigarh Diocese

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THE YEAR OF THE JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Subject: Preparation for the Jubilee Year 2025: A Call to Hope

To All the Lay Faithful, Clergy and Religious of Simla-Chandigarh Diocese,

Dear People of God,

Greetings of Peace!

As Pilgrims of Hope on the Synodal Journey, we are called to live a life of holiness, joy, and hope. Saint Paul's words, "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5), resonate deeply with us as we prepare for the Jubilee Year 2025.

Pope Francis, in his Bull of Indiction, "Spes Non Confundit: Hope Does Not Disappoint," emphasizes hope as the central message of the Jubilee. He reminds us that hope resides in the hearts of all, a desire for good things to come, even in the face of uncertainty. In a world filled with complexities and challenges, God's Word provides a path to a life of holiness, joy, and hope in our homes and nations.

The motto, "Pilgrims of Hope," underscores the importance of hope in Christian life, especially in the midst of the hardships caused by the pandemic and wars. The Jubilee logo symbolizes this journey not as an individual endeavour but as a collective enterprise.

The logo for the Jubilee Year illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual effort but as a collective enterprise. The context for the Jubilee is to learn from the Church's initiatives on the Synodal Journey with the theme: Communion, Participation, and Mission. It also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea (325), the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council (1965), and the 25th anniversary of Ecclesia in Asia (1999).

The purpose of the Jubilee is threefold: (i) to celebrate Jesus, (ii) to celebrate the Church, and (iii) to celebrate us. The Jubilee 2025 invites us to remember God, review our relationship with God and His Church, and restore our relationship with God and His people. The celebration of Jesus, the Church, and us happens in the context of the Synodal Journey as Pilgrims of Hope.

As we prepare for the Jubilee Year, we are encouraged to learn and pray. Studying the Four Major Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council and engaging in prayer and reflection can lead us to a meaningful celebration, viz., Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium), Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) and Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes).



Our Diocese is taking various initiatives to commemorate the Jubilee, aligning with the CCBI Pastoral Plan, "Journeying Towards a Synodal Church: Mission 2033."

I would like to remind you of the upcoming Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting on October 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM. I urge all Diocesan Clergy, one Religious Priest or Sister, and two Laity from the Parish to attend. This meeting will be crucial for discussing and deciding on plans for the Jubilee Year preparations and celebrations as Pilgrims of Hope.

I also express my gratitude for your generous support towards flood relief victims in Wayanad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, pray for us.

Thanking you and with every good wish.

Given on September 14, 2024 at Bishop's House, Chandigarh on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

This Circular is to be read out or its contents to be explained in Hindi in all Churches on 15.09.2024 or 22.09.2024.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+Ignatius L. Mascarenhas
Bishop of Simla Chandigarh



THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.
Amen