

Pope Francis looks ahead to the Jubilee, praying that it might “strengthen us in the faith,” and transform us into “pilgrims of Christian hope”

- *In his prayer intention for December, **Pope Francis** invites us to pray “that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.”*
- *The Pope invites us to be pilgrims of hope in a world that “needs it a lot,” and that “through us, let us allow it to reach everyone who is looking for it.”*
- *“Hope,” Pope Francis says, “is an anchor – an anchor that you cast over with a rope to be moored on the shore. We have to hold onto the rope of hope.”*

(Vatican City, 3 December 2024). – “**For pilgrims of hope**” is the prayer intention chosen by **Pope Francis** for the month of December. It is a special invitation within the context of the upcoming [Jubilee 2025](#). For this reason, the **Pope** asks us to “pray that this upcoming Jubilee strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.”

“Pilgrims of hope,” the theme of [The Pope Video](#) for December, reflects one of the basic pillars of this pontificate. This is why **Pope Francis** asks the faithful to be witnesses of “**Christian hope**” in a world dominated by desperation and distrust. “Christian hope is a gift from God that fills our lives with joy. And today, we need it a lot. The world really needs it a lot!” the Pope states in his video message entrusted to the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#), and produced in collaboration with the **Fondazione Pro Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa** and the [Dicastery for Evangelization](#).

The boat and the anchor

In the *Statio Orbis* during the pandemic in a deserted Saint Peter’s Square, Pope Francis used the Gospel metaphor of the boat in the midst of the storm to recall



the fragility and disorientation of humanity in the face of great trials. In a certain sense, the Holy Father brings us back to that boat so as to highlight the importance of the anchor in this month's prayer intention. "Hope," he says, accompanying his words with very eloquent gestures, "is an anchor – an anchor that you cast over with a rope to be moored on the shore. We have to hold onto the rope of hope."

In the footsteps of Abraham

"The virtue of hope gives us a lot of strength to walk through life," Pope Francis said on 28 December 2016 during the General Audience dedicated to the figure of Abraham. On the one hand, Abraham was not "afraid to see reality for what it was," and on the other hand, he was capable of "going beyond human reasoning, beyond the world's wisdom and prudence, beyond what was normally considered common sense, to believe in the impossible." Like Abraham, the protagonists of this month's **The Pope Video** set out on a journey, beginning with their own difficulties: the worries of a woman in front of an empty pantry, the doubts of a student regarding the future.

"Day by day, let us fill our lives with the gift of hope that God gives us, and through us, let us allow it to reach everyone who is looking for it," the Pope says in his message that accompanies his prayer intention. And this is exactly what happens to the protagonists in the video: on their journey, both of them meet some "pilgrims of hope" who welcome and comfort them, inviting them to join them on their symbolic journey toward the Holy Door which will remain open during the entire Jubilee year.

Jubilee 2025, an invitation to walk in hope

Jubilee 2025, whose theme is "**Pilgrims of hope**", will be a unique moment for celebration and profound reflection. Also called the "**Holy Year**," it is not only a stop on the journey of faith, but also an invitation to recognize Christ in the everyday. Pope Francis highlighted in his [letter](#) to the Pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Archbishop **Rino Fisichella**, that the pandemic weakened hope in society, and that "**we must fan the flame of hope that has been given us.**" In this sense, the Jubilee is presented as an opportunity to strengthen hope and to share it in a world that urgently needs it.

The same Dicastery collaborated with the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network to produce this month's video which, as Archbishop **Rino Fisichella** explains, seeks to convey a basic message to young people as well. "We are grateful for the opportunity of supporting the Holy Father and The Pope Video initiative regarding



Hope in view of Jubilee 2025. Just a few days before the opening of the first Ordinary Jubilee of the 21st century, let us recall the verse from Psalm 27 with which Pope Francis concluded the Bull of Indiction of the Holy Year, *Spes non confundit*: 'Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!' (Psalm 27:14) These words are an invitation to never lose hope in whatever controversy or difficulty in life, not even in the situation in which our world finds itself today, wounded by war, violence and suffering. Let us pray that through this video, a means of communication intended for young people, that everyone might receive the message of hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on God's love."

The world needs hope

"To hope against hope", like Abraham did is not rationally possible. "But reason does not have all the solutions, even more so in today's society, so filled with contradictions. Hope is an unavoidable challenge," states **Stefano Simontacchi**, founding member and member of the administrative board of the **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network Foundation**, who contributed to the production of this video. "For quite some time now, young people have been seeing the future as a threat that causes unhappiness. Giving into fear puts them at risk of losing the meaning of existence itself. As Jesus Himself teaches us in the Gospels, faith is the antidote for fear. Hope is the embodiment in our lives of this faith dimension. I believe that this positive spiral that triggers a life lived consciously and with a purpose consists in a point of departure, of hope (trust), with a disposition of gratitude, and with an energy that moves everything and translates everything into action, that is love. So, let's welcome Pope Francis's invitation, and dispose ourselves to live as pilgrims of hope."

An invitation to journey together

Father Cristóbal Fones, S.J., International Director of the **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**, reflects: "With the opening of the Holy Door at the beginning of the Jubilee 2025, the Pope symbolically shows us the many doors that need to be opened – doors to go out of in order to meet others, and to let others come into our lives; doors of freedom grounded in our Christian hope. As disciples of the Risen Jesus, we are not adrift on our pilgrim journey, but are firmly anchored to Him. This Jubilee is a tremendous opportunity to open ourselves courageously to share the light of hope that faith gives us, especially with all those who, in the midst of the here and now, and uncertainty in which we live, have lost the ability to dream."



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



The Pope Video is possible thanks to the generous contributions of many people. You can donate by following [this link](#).

Where can the video be seen?

- [Official website of The Pope Video](#)
- [YouTube channel of The Pope Video](#)
- [Facebook page of The Pope Video](#)
- [The Pope Video on Twitter/X](#)
- [The Pope Video on Instagram](#)
- [The Pope on Twitter/X Verified @Pontifex](#)
- [The Pope on Instagram Verified @Franciscus](#)

About The Pope Video

The Pope Video is an official global initiative with the purpose of disseminating the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions. It is carried out by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer). **Since 2016, The Pope Video has had more than 236 million views across all the Vatican's social networks, and is translated into more than 23 languages, receiving press coverage in 114 countries.** The videos are produced and created by The Pope Video Prayer Network team, coordinated by Andrea Sarubbi, and distributed by La Machi Communication for Good Causes. The project is sponsored by [Vatican Media](#). More information: [The Pope Video](#).

About the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is a Pontifical Society, with the mission of mobilizing Catholics through prayer and action in response to the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. These challenges are presented in the form of prayer intentions entrusted by the Pope to the entire Church. The foundation's mission is inscribed in the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus, a mission of compassion for the world. It was founded in 1844 as the Apostleship of Prayer. It is present in 92 countries, and is made up of more than 22 million Catholics. It includes a youth branch, the Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM). In July 2024, the Pope approved the definitive Statutes of this Pontifical Work (canonical and Vatican legal entity). Its interim international director is Father Cristóbal Fones, SJ. For more information, visit: popesprayer.va

About the Fondazione Pro Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa

Created in January 2024, the Fondazione Pro Rete Mondiale di Preghiera del Papa is a non-profit organization whose objective is to support the activities and international projects of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This can be done in various ways: the organization and management of cultural, artistic and recreational activities; charitable initiatives favoring the most unfortunate: the promotion and protection of human, civil and social rights; supporting spiritual or missionary activities in the poorest and most marginalized areas of the world in which the work of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is carried out directly or through its local offices and parish groups of the Apostleship of Prayer or the Eucharistic Youth Movement. Lastly, the Foundation seeks to promote the importance of spirituality and prayer as effective tools to promote peace through specifically popular types of activities.

About the Dicastery for Evangelization

The Dicastery serves the work of evangelization, so that Christ, the light of the nations, may be known and witnessed to by word and deed, and the Church, his mystical Body, may be built up. The Dicastery is competent for fundamental questions regarding evangelization in the world and for the establishment, assistance and support of new particular Churches. For more information: evangelizatio.va

PRESS CONTACTS

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK – VATICAN CITY

press@thepopevideo.org

+34 633 32 33 29



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



+39 06 69 868 383

PARTNERS

FONDAZIONE PRO RETE MONDIALE DI PREGHIERA DEL PAPA

Gianluca Vignola

fundraising@popesprayer.va

DICASTERY FOR EVANGELIZATION

press@iubilaeum2025.va

davide.nappi@iubilaeum2025.va

agnese.palmucci@iubilaeum2025.va