

## Jubilee 2025 Motto: Pilgrims of Hope

The Jubilee pilgrimage is meant to be the outward sign of an inward journey that all of us are called to make toward our final destination.

*“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”*

(Letter of Pope Francis, 11 February 2022)

As a people united in the Lord Jesus, all Christians have a particular mission to manifest hope to our world.

### APRIL CONTEMPLATION

*“These are times of trials. Oh God help us.”*

(Bl. John Merlini, *Letter 283*)<sup>1</sup>

#### Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

*R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

**All:** Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today’s actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father’s Intention for the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our time, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

God of compassion, look with favor upon all who work and pray for the unity of divided Christian communities, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

That our country more fully embraces the culture of life, recognizing in each person the image of God Himself, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For those who’ve asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

#### *Silent Reflection*

*Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.*

<sup>1</sup>On January 12, 2025 Venerable John Merlini, 3<sup>rd</sup> Moderator General of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, will be Beatified in Rome. Each month the Contemplations will include a quote from one of his letters.

## **Leader: Prayer Before Reading Scripture**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the Scriptures that were written for our instruction. They reveal the depth and width of your great love and show us how to walk in a way that is pleasing to you. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading:** *(Phil 1:4-6, 8-11)*

*A reading from the letter to the Philippians*

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm:** *(Psalm 1:1-2, 3,4,6)*

***Response: Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.***

Blessed the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked  
Nor walks in the way of sinners, nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the LORD and meditates on his law day and night. *R/.*

He is like a tree planted near running water, that yields its fruit in due season,  
and whose leaves never fade. Whatever he does, prospers. *R/.*

Not so the wicked, not so; they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked vanishes. *R/.*

## **Glory Be...**

**Leader:** As Pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee Year our reflections will be from Pope Benedict's encyclical on Christian Hope

## **Reflection from *Spe Salvi*, 26**

It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love. This applies even in terms of this present world. When someone has the experience of a great love in his life, this is a moment of “redemption” which gives a new meaning to his life. But soon he will also realize that the love bestowed upon him cannot by itself resolve the question of his life. It is a love that remains fragile. It can be destroyed by death. The human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (*Rom 8:38- 39*). If this absolute love exists, with its absolute certainty, then—only then—is man “redeemed”, whatever should happen to him in his particular circumstances.

## ***Silent Reflection***

## **Leader: Prayer for April**

Father, you will your Church to be the sacrament of salvation for all peoples. Make us feel more urgently the call to work for the salvation of men and women. Inspire the hearts of all your people to continue the saving work of Christ every-where until the end of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **The Blood of Christ is Life for all Our Needs**

**Leader:** Repeat before each intention:

**Eternal Father, we offer you the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, poured out on the cross and offered daily on the altar:**

- ✦ For the glory of your name, for the coming of your kingdom and for the salvation of all.
- ✦ For the propagation of faith, for Pope Francis, for bishops, priests, and religious and for the sanctification of all the people of God.
- ✦ For the conversion of sinners, for the loving acceptance of your Word, and for the union of all Christians.
- ✦ For civil authorities, for the strengthening of public morals, and for peace and justice among all nations.
- ✦ For the sanctification of our work and suffering, for the poor, sick and afflicted, and for all who rely on our prayers.
- ✦ For our own spiritual and temporal needs, for those of our relatives, benefactors, and also for those of our enemies.
- ✦ For those who are to die this day, for the souls in purgatory, and for our final union with Christ in Glory.

**Our Father...**

### *Silent Reflection*

## **Prayer of Blessed John Merlini for the Congregation (the “*Institute*”)**

**Leader:** As members of the Precious Blood Family, we join him in this prayer.

My Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you with all the outpouring of my spirit for that infinite goodness with which you have deigned to call me into the number of those who militate under the auspices of your most precious Blood...Give all members abundance of graces to live closely united with you. Spread your mercies on all the benefactors of our houses. Look with compassion upon so many souls redeemed by you. Grant that all the religious and civic activities that the Institute presents for the benefit of the people may bear many fruits...Oh, Blood of my Jesus, strengthen my prayers and make me holy! Most Holy Mary, my dear Mother, to you I commend myself, in you I trust...Angels of heaven and particularly you, my guardian angel, present my plea to Jesus and Mary, and let it be fully answered. St. Gaspar, St. Francis Xavier, Saints my advocates and protectors, all Saints of heaven, pray for the Institute, for me, for all. Amen.

Our Lady of the Most Precious Blood, pray for us.  
St. Gaspar, pray for us, St. Maria De Mattias, pray for us,  
St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.  
Blessed John Merlini, pray for us.

## **The Jubilee Prayer**

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