



Foundation Day 2025

REFLECTION, PRAYER
& RESOURCE



Pilgrims of Hope

Blessed are the people whose strength is in you
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
Psalm 84:5

Call to Prayer

Today, we celebrate Foundation Day during the Jubilee Holy Year 2025 with its focus on *Pilgrims of Hope*. Journeying globally as a universal Church toward Hope calls forth historical and other contemporary examples of *Pilgrims of Hope*, internationally, nationally and congregationally. God of the journey, grace us with imagination to journey with the universal Church, with Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, with migrants seeking a better life and with our Baltimore Sisters who are currently moving from Rosary Community and Villa Assumpta to SSND Stella Maris Pangborn. Bless us to see them as *Pilgrims of Hope*. We give thanks for their example, including the [Sisters who have moved in prior years](#)¹ from their motherhouse to a new home. May they kindle in us courage and faith on our individual and collective pilgrim journeys.

Song [Like a Flame my Hope is burning](#)
[Official Hymn of the Jubilee, courtesy of cjmmusic.org]

Readings

Anchored in Hope²

[The remainder of this Holy Year of Jubilee is] marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us [pilgrims] to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation.

Cont'd

¹ Click the link for a listing of historic, past and current moves of Sisters from motherhouses

² [Spes non confundit - Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 \(9 May 2024\)](#), Sections 25 and 3; original text with [changed words]



May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pet 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfillment of the Lord's promises. Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: "Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" (Ps 27:14). ... As Saint Augustine observes: "Whatever our state of life, we cannot live without these three dispositions of the soul, namely, to believe, to hope and to love." (Serm. 198 augm. 2.)

Migrants as Pilgrims of Hope³

Signs of hope should also be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families. Their expectations must not be frustrated by prejudice and rejection. A spirit of welcome, which embraces everyone with respect for his or her dignity, should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility, lest anyone be denied the right to a dignified existence. Exiles, displaced persons and refugees, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means they need to find their place in a new social context.



“Moving is not foreign to us School Sisters”. Mother Theresa in one of her early letters reflected on moving the motherhouse from Neunburg to Munich, and the Sisters to various mission institutes for the sake of mission: “At the foundation of each mission institute, the superior must travel to the site first in order to see the situation, and then a second time to accompany the Sisters to the new mission. Each of these missions must be completely furnished - which makes no small demands on the motherhouse...”.⁴

Moving continued in Baltimore after a successful start of the Motherhouse “on Aisquith Street when in [1955](#)⁵ we needed to move ... to this beautiful place called Villa Assumpta and the 48-acre Gunther property on Charles Street. ... Reflecting on leaving a home is a deeply emotional experience, evoking a complex mix of nostalgia, gratitude, and a sense of closure. *Cont’d*



³ [Spes non confundit - Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 \(9 May 2024\)](#), Section 13

⁴ Excerpt from [Mother-Theresa-Letters-Volume-2](#). pdf page 62

⁵ Video on Villa Assumpta shown after the Mass of Remembrance of Villa Assumpta on October 5, 2025



This sacred place is more than just a building; it is a canvas where the stories of a particular chapter of our lives were painted, and saying goodbye means acknowledging all the memories and milestones held within its walls.”⁶

Reflection, Community Sharing and/or Journaling

Our history of being Pilgrims of Hope

1. Which one of the readings speaks most to you at this time in your life? Why?
2. Recall a time in your life when you felt most a Pilgrim of Hope? What is your story?
3. How are you drawn to HOPE these days? What might tempt you to despair?
4. Pilgrims are people on the move. How are you moving these days – physically or metaphorically (e.g. moving toward forgiveness, reconciliation, compassion, peacemaking, and bridge-building⁷) What is exciting about it? What might be difficult or daunting?

Pilgrims of Hope Prayers

Leader: God of pilgrims and of hope, we pray for a pilgrim heart:

(Community Member (CM) 1: that we may recognize our dependence on grace and trust in your providence,

CM 2: that we keep searching for meaning, beauty, and divine encounter,

CM 3: that we know that the journey is sacred, not just the destination,

CM 4: that we listen more than we speak and speak from a place of deep listening,

CM 5: that we see others not as obstacles but as companions on the way,

CM 6: that we marvel at creation and see God's fingerprints everywhere.

All: As Pilgrims, let us be tangible signs of Hope.

Leader: We pray for our Baltimore Sisters who are moving. May they soon grow sturdy roots and community in their new home. We pray for all “elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned. May we esteem them for the treasure that they are, their life experiences, their accumulated wisdom and the contribution that they can still make to the Christian community and civil society ... ”⁸

All: As Pilgrims, let us be tangible signs of Hope.

Leader: Together with Blessed Theresa, we pray for our youth: that we and the broader society find ways to support young people's dreams and struggle against despair.

All: As Pilgrims, let us be tangible signs of Hope.

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⁶ Charmaine Krohe, SSND, Provincial Leader, Mass of Remembrance of Villa Assumpta, Homily, October 5, 2025

⁷ The Call of the 25th General Chapter

⁸ [Spes non confundit - Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025 \(9 May 2024\)](#), Section 14



Leader: We pray in hope with [Pope Leo](#) “that the upcoming international summits of the United Nations...will listen to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, families, indigenous peoples, involuntary migrants and believers throughout the world.”

All: As Pilgrims, let us be tangible signs of Hope.

Leader: We pray for all people on the move, voluntary or forced, young or old, healthy or afflicted, hope-filled or despaired, pilgrims or not ... may they be protected and guided by your hope, ‘a hope that does not disappoint’ (Rom 5:5).

All: As Pilgrims, let us be tangible signs of Hope.

*Here the leader can invite other prayers of the community

Closing Meditation by Catholic Health Association (CHA)

[Pilgrims of Hope: Sustaining Strength for the Journey](#) [2 Min. 40 Sec.]

Amen!



Hope is not the conviction that something
will turn out well, but the certainty
that something makes sense,
regardless of how it turns out.

- Václav Havel



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