

GERARD WILLIAM

By the Grace of God and



the Favor of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF LA CROSSE

**DECREE**

**On the Designation of Churches and Sacred Places for Pilgrimage  
for the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025  
in the Diocese of La Crosse**

“Now the time has come for a new Jubilee, when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ.”<sup>1</sup> In this Jubilee Year the Holy Father calls on all Christians to become *pilgrims of hope*.

The Holy Father states, “Sustained by this great tradition, and certain that the Jubilee Year will be for the entire Church a lively experience of grace and hope, I hereby decree that the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican will be opened on 24 December 2024, thus inaugurating the Ordinary Jubilee.”<sup>2</sup> He further decrees that on Sunday, 29 December 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, bishops are to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year.<sup>3</sup> The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches on Sunday, 28 December 2025, and it will conclude in the Vatican with the closing of the Holy Door in the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter on 6 January 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.<sup>4</sup>

Pope Francis explains that hope is, “the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years.”<sup>5</sup> Pope Francis has also highlighted the importance of pilgrimage in this Jubilee year:

*Pilgrimage* is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life. In the coming year, *pilgrims of hope* will surely travel the ancient and more modern routes in order to experience the Jubilee to the full.<sup>6</sup>

In this Ordinary Jubilee Year, His Holiness has granted the customary Plenary Jubilee Indulgence. Pope Francis explains the importance of this indulgence:

Every sin “leaves its mark.” Sin has consequences, not only outwardly in the effects of the wrong we do, but also inwardly, inasmuch as “every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death, in the state called Purgatory”. In our humanity, weak and attracted by evil, certain residual effects of sin remain.

<sup>1</sup> Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025, *Spes non Confundit* (9 May 2024), 6.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, 6.

<sup>3</sup> See, *Ibid*, 6.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* 6

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 1.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, 5.

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These are removed by the indulgence, always by the grace of Christ, who, as Saint Paul VI wrote, “is himself our ‘indulgence.’”<sup>7</sup>

He also says:

Indeed, the *indulgence* is a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God’s mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms “mercy” and “indulgence” were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God’s forgiveness, which knows no bounds.<sup>8</sup>

In accord with the Holy Father’s Bull of Indiction, the Apostolic Penitentiary has issued norms for obtaining and rendering spiritually fruitful the practice of the Jubilee indulgence. “During the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin (cf. *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, IV ed., norm. 20, § 1), who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory. “The faithful, *pilgrims of hope*, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage”<sup>9</sup> which may be accomplished “by visiting the Cathedral or other church or sacred place designated by the local Ordinary.”

Therefore, in communion with our Holy Father and in the spirit of pastoral solicitude for the Christian faithful entrusted to my care, I, Gerard William Battersby, Bishop of La Crosse, in accordance with the Papal Bull for the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025, designate the following church and holy places as places of pilgrimage:

- The Cathedral of Saint Joseph the Workman in La Crosse
- The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse
- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Eau Claire
- Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church in Wausau
- Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Nekoosa

The Holy Father has also granted the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence to the faithful who put into practice works of mercy and penance. Echoing the Holy Father’s words, I ask all the men and women of this Diocese to rediscover the penitential nature of Friday by abstaining from futile distractions (e.g. media and/or social media), from superfluous consumption, as well as by donating a proportionate sum of money to the poor, by supporting works of a religious or social nature.<sup>10</sup>

He also encourages all diocesan bishops, on the most appropriate day of this jubilee period, on the occasion of the main celebration in the cathedral and in the individual jubilee churches, to impart the Papal Blessing with the attached plenary indulgence, obtainable by all the faithful who receive this Blessing under the usual conditions.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid, 23.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, 23.

<sup>9</sup> Decree on the Granting of Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 called by His Holiness Pope Francis, (13 May 2024)

<sup>10</sup> see *ibid*.

<sup>11</sup> see *ibid*.

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This blessing will be given on the following days in the following occasions:

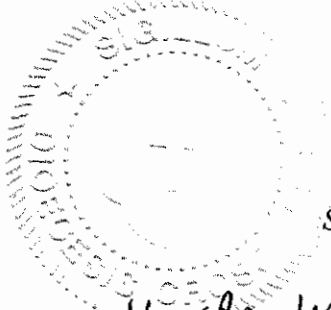
- Saturday, February 22 Jubilee of Deacons, The Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse
- Saturday, May 31 Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and Elderly, Sacred Heart Church, Eau Claire
- Sunday, October 12 Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, Resurrection Church, Wausau

These dates will also be the dates of the Diocesan Jubilee Events. Each event will consist of a real pilgrimage, the celebration of holy Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation, and lecture delivered at the various locations by myself, Very Rev. James Kurzynski, and Rev. Daniel Sedlacek.

The Holy Father desires us to live out hope, so he has given the faithful another way to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Each time one or more of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy are performed, the grace of the Jubilee Indulgence is gained.

It is my deepest desire that the priests, religious and lay leaders of our parishes encourage the faithful of the Diocese of La Crosse to embrace with great humility and a deep trust this great Jubilee year, and encourage the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. May this Jubilee year be a time for us also to recommit to the Most Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Given at La Crosse, at the Chancery, on the twenty-third day of December in the year of Our Lord 2024, the Memorial of Saint John of Kanty.



SEAL

*Very Rev. William A. Okei*  
Chancellor

*+ BSWBJ*  
Bishop of La Crosse