

## 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.

### SEPTEMBER CONTEMPLATION

*“Be in good spirits. Everything is good for heaven.”*

(Bl. John Merlini, *Letter 289*)<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 our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

That our country more fully embrace 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:** (*Nm 6:22-27*)

*A reading from the Book of Numbers*

The LORD said to Moses: “Speak to Aaron and his sons and tell them: This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm:** (*Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19*)

***Response: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.***

Exult, you just, in the LORD; praise from the upright is fitting.

Give thanks to the LORD on the harp; with the ten stringed lyre chant his praises. *R/*

For upright is the word of the LORD, and all his works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full. *R/*

But the plan of the LORD stands forever; the design of his heart, through all generations.

Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he has chosen for his own inheritance. *R/*

But see, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness,

To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine. *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*, 23**

If progress, in order to be progress, needs moral growth on the part of humanity, then the reason behind action and capacity for action is likewise urgently in need of integration through reason's openness to the saving forces of faith, to the differentiation between good and evil....man needs God, otherwise he remains without hope...neither is there any doubt that God truly enters into human affairs only when, rather than being present merely in our thinking, he himself comes towards us and speaks to us. Reason therefore needs faith if it is to be completely itself: reason and faith need one another in order to fulfil their true nature and their mission.

## ***Silent Reflection***

## **Leader: Prayer for September**

God our Father, you have placed all the powers of nature under the control of human beings and their work. May we bring the spirit of Christ to all our efforts and work with our brothers and sisters at our common task, establishing true love and guiding your creation to perfect fulfillment. 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