



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop's Message
Announcing the Jubilee Year of Hope

Dec. 13, 2024

Dear Pilgrims of God,

The peace and joy of our Savior be with you!

The Church is always in the midst of blessings, of graces that our Lord bestows upon us. Even this Advent season as we draw closer to celebrating the glorious birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, our already joyful hearts have more reason to leap in jubilation.

His Holiness, Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 to be the Jubilee Year of Hope for our Universal Church! In solidarity with our Holy Father and brothers and sisters throughout the world, the Archdiocese of Agaña will open the Jubilee Year of Hope during the 11:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024 on the Feast of the Holy Family at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica in Hagatña.

I invite each of you to join me in entering the doors of hope that our loving God offers to us in him and in his Church.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines “hope” this way:

“Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” (§1817)

Put in shorter terms that most Catholics are familiar with, *“Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth”* – Psalm 124:8

In the words of Pope Francis in his letter announcing the Jubilee Year of Hope, God's holy and faithful people can once again experience this celebration “as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God.” The pope pointed out that in the year 2000, Saint John Paul II “hoped that all Christians put behind their historical division and celebrate together the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity,”

We have celebrated the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy opening us up to appreciate anew all the power and tenderness of the Father's merciful love allowing us the ability to be His witnesses, Pope Francis said. As the first 25 years of the new century draws to a close, we are once again called to experience another Holy Year in all its pastoral richness.

Pope Francis exhorts us, "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."

"The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire," the pope said. "That is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*. This will indeed be the case if we are capable of recovering a sense of universal fraternity and refuse to turn a blind eye to the tragedy of rampant poverty that prevents millions of men, women, young people and children from living in a manner worthy of our human dignity."

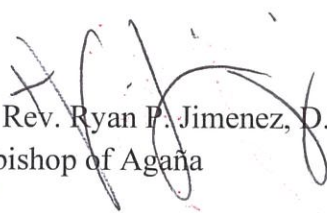
As baptized people, we must extend the hope, love and joy of God that each of us know to one another, especially to our brothers and sisters who suffer greatly.

Pope Francis explained that in particular, his thoughts are of the multitudes of refugees forced to abandon their native lands. "May the voices of the poor be heard throughout this time of preparation for the Jubilee, which is meant to restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone," the pope said.

In Guam, we must do a better job of reaching out to those who suffer with poverty of the spirit, poverty of mercy, or poverty of faith. In other words, those who for one reason or the other, struggle in despair, do not know our Loving God or who have fallen from his path.

Prayer intentions related to the Jubilee Year of Hope will be inserted in the Universal Prayer during Masses and I ask that the Prayer for Hope that is in the Missalettes be prayed at the schools at the start of the day. A special Jubilee Prayer of Hope has been created for the global Church and is to be prayed during Special Masses here in our archdiocese. The Holy Father's letter can be viewed at <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/lettera-di-papa-francesco.html> while the Jubilee Prayer, and more information on the Jubilee Year of Hope can be found at <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

May this season of Advent bring us closer to God. May the joy of our Savior shine brightly in our lives on Christmas and inspire us to share the love of Our Lord to others.



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Archbishop of Agaña