

## 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.

### MARCH CONTEMPLATION

*“Do not grieve over the trials and tribulations you go through. No leaf falls that God does not want, says a proverb. God will get his glory out of it, and in the meantime let us surrender ourselves into God’s hands to not go astray.”*

(Bl. John Merlini, *Letter 265*)<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 families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

That by the Church’s sacred remembrance of the mysteries of our salvation, the Lord may pour his divine love into every human heart, 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:** *(Is 40:1-5, 9-11)*

*A reading from the book of Isaiah*

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm:** *(Psalm 91:1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-6, 10-11)*

**Response:** *The Lord has put angels in charge of you, to guard you in all your ways.*

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, Say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." **R/.**

For he will rescue you from the snare of the fowler, from the destroying pestilence. With his pinions he will cover you, and under his wings you shall take refuge. **R/.**

His faithfulness is a buckler and a shield. You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day; Nor the pestilence that roams in darkness, nor the devastating plague at noon. **R/.**

No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your tent, For to his angels he has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. **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*, 29**

For Augustine this meant a totally new life. He once described his daily life in the following terms: "The turbulent have to be corrected, the faint-hearted cheered up, the weak supported; the Gospel's opponents need to be refuted, its insidious enemies guarded against; the unlearned need to be taught, the indolent stirred up, the argumentative checked; the proud must be put in their place, the desperate set on their feet, those engaged in quarrels reconciled; the needy have to be helped, the oppressed to be liberated, the good to be encouraged, the bad to be tolerated; all must be loved."<sup>22</sup>...this was what he set out to do: to transmit hope, the hope which came to him from faith and which, in complete contrast with his introverted temperament, enabled him to take part decisively and with all his strength in the task of building up the city....On the strength of his hope, Augustine dedicated himself completely to the ordinary people and to his city

<sup>22</sup> *Sermo* 340, 3: *PL* 38, 1484; cf. F. Van der Meer, *Augustine the Bishop*, London and New York 1961, p.268.

## *Silent Reflection*

### **Leader: Prayer for March**

God our Father, in your care and wisdom you extend the reign of Christ to embrace the world to give all people redemption. May the Catholic Church be the sign of our salvation, may it reveal for us the mystery of your love, and may that love become effective in our lives. 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