



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

December 10, 2024

My Dear Brother Priests, Deacons, and Partners in Ministry,

It is with great joy and anticipation that with Catholics around the world I welcome the Jubilee Year of Hope. As Pope Francis explains: “Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt.... For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope” (*SNC §1*). Indeed, in this archdiocese and in dioceses across the United States, we have much reason for hope.

Over the last year, we have witnessed a powerful revival, one culminating in a gathering of 60,000 people to worship Our Lord in the Eucharist. What is more, those gathered were sent out with the same Spirit of Hope as the first apostles – called to be “witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (*Acts 1:8*). Indeed, *every Christian* is called to be a missionary of hope – a witness to the Eucharistic Lord – with our friends, our neighbors, and each person whom we encounter.

In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we will commit ourselves to be *hopeful witnesses* during the Jubilee year and beyond in a number of ways:

- On December 29, 2024, I will celebrate the 11:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen to inaugurate the Jubilee Year. I realize that this is an extraordinarily busy season for our parish communities but please consider attending or uniting yourself with us in the Jubilee Prayer.
- In accordance with the provisions of the *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence During the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025* from the Apostolic Penitentiary at the Vatican, I will impart the Papal Blessing, with the attached plenary indulgence for all the faithful who receive the blessing under the usual conditions, at the Chrism Mass on Monday April 14, 2025. All are welcome to attend this singular opportunity for me to impart this blessing during the Jubilee Year.

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- Our Central Services team has developed resources that can be distributed or adapted for parish use, including some “passports” that highlight the numerous opportunities for Plenary Indulgences, including pilgrimages to shrines I have designated throughout the Archdiocese.
- Deacon Manuel Aliaga, who serves as the Pastoral Associate for the Eastern Vicar, will lead a series of webinars that focus on the intimate connection between this Jubilee Year of Hope and the Eucharistic Revival that we are experiencing in the Church in the U.S. – helping participants to serve as witnesses of hope.

More about each of these opportunities can be found on the Archdiocesan website: www.archbalt.org/jubilee-2025-pilgrims-of-hope. Especially in this Season of Advent, let us be a people of hope and pray with Pope Francis, that, “Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it” (SNC §25).

May this Jubilee Year, that also coincides with the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival, be an opportunity for a unique outpouring of God’s grace upon all of the souls in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William E. Lori". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore