**“JUBILEE 2025 AND THE FAMILY.” MARFAM CELEBRATES**

**“FAMILIES - PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN OUR WORLD A FAMILY OF FAMILIES”**

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Pope Francis proclaimed the Jubilee Year with the theme of Hope, addressing not only all Catholics and Christians, but all people, at a time in our world when hope is greatly needed. MARFAM aims to develop the Jubilee concepts and provide some suggestions and resources from a family perspective, for families and others e.g. parish departments, prayer groups and sodalities, recognising that our whole world of creation is a family of families of many kinds. This **family focus** will be taken up in events, publications and other resources this year.

**WHAT IS JUBILEE ALL ABOUT?** It was a historical practice in ancient Judaism as a form of renewal of society and a recognition that everything belongs to God. It was adopted by the Church and continues in our time with practices like indulgences granted for making a pilgrimage to a Holy Door. The traditional Jewish aims of a 50 year jubilee were: cancellation of debts, restoration of property, release of prisoners(-of-war) and forgiveness. Aims expressed by Pope Francis and dioceses in launching their Jubilee years are: attitudes of thanksgiving, renewal, reconciliation, repentance, forgiveness, mercy. On a more institutional level justice issues of debt and land should be noted. For families it concerns deepening of relevant attitudes of dependance on and renewal in relationships with God and others, internal forgiveness and care for the poor and the earth.

The official 2025 Jubilee theme, proclaimed by Pope Francis, is “Hope never disappoints. *Spes non confundit,* the official document provides us with some Signs of Hope which are particularly relevant for family life and can be used to commemorate the Jubilee year when they are built into our own journeys as Pilgrims of Hope.

**Pope Francis:** *Hope does not disappoint. Here we see the reason why this hope perseveres in the midst of trials: founded on faith and nurtured by charity, it enables us to press forward in life. 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. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (Rom 5:1-2.5).*

**How can the Jubilee be celebrated in families as Pilgrims of Hope?**

1. Research into needs and opportunities for action. **Choose** and develop a Jubilee project for the year to suit the family and its members, incorporating aspects of faith and life, e.g. peace, land, debts, creation.
2. Use the **MARFAM FAMILY YEAR PLANNER’s** monthly themes to plan events and activities. (see below)
3. **For Spiritual Renewal also consider mixed religion families:** **prayer** as individuals or together, for one another and needs of other families and the family of creation.  **Faith sharing** **on a chosen topic** from resources e.g. THOUGHTS/YEAR PLANNER or others. Hold a family prayer meal, reconciliation service, prayer walk, retreat, blessing of home and members. Use candles, statues, pictures, read, watch, listen to spiritual radio & TV. Use social media to spread the message. Participate in Jubilee liturgical events.
4. Respond to the needs expressed in the SIGNS OF HOPE in *SNC* in the people-centred acts.
5. Choose general Justice and Becoming Eco-Friendly Family activities or adopt campaigns that offer hope.

As guides for prayer and activities use any religious or secular issues for faith sharing activities with SEE-JUDGE-ACT methodology, including Bible and Church teaching. Check [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Use [www.laudatosimovement.org](http://www.laudatosimovement.org) for resources with ecological focus.

**Pope Francis resource docs.** Marriage and family - ***Amoris Laetitia*** */The Joy of Love.* Integral ecology - ***Laudato Si****,* Ca*re of our Common Home +* *Laudato Deum,* ***Fratelli Tutti*** on social friendship. New from 2024 are the encyclical***Dilexit n****os –* on the love of Jesus and the Sacred Heart, and ***Spes non Confundit****/Hope does not disappoint,* the Indiction Bull for the Jubilee 2025.

**MARFAM FAMILY YEAR PLANNER MONTHLY THEMES for JUBILEE 2025 provide suggestions for action with an eco-family focus and incorporating Hope. (get some resources listed from MARFAM)**

1. **JANUARY. BEGINNINGS.** Blessing of home. school/education.
2. **FEBRUARY.** **LOVE AND MARRIAGE.** Workshop, retreat: “Marriage a Foundation Sacrament of the Church.” Prayer and blessing with stages of marriage in families, engaged, married, hurting/separated, divorced, widowed. Note co-habiting and LGB+ relationship to marriage.
3. **MARCH.** **FAMILY RIGHTS.** Church Charter of Family Rights. Life. Land. Work. Jubilee and Lent at home
4. **APRIL. GOD AND FAMILY.** Lent and Easter at home. Families in creation.
5. **MAY. PARENTING**. International Year of Family Day. LAUDATO SI’ 10.  **Vatican JUBILEE OF FAMILIES.**
6. **JUNE. CHILDREN AND YOUTH.** Children and Hope. Christian Unity week Jubilee context.
7. **JULY. GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY.** Intergenerational Celebration. Awareness of hope.
8. **AUGUST. SEXUALITY A FAMILY GIFT.** Creation, co-creation. Various topical issues. Women, teen.
9. **SEPTEMBER. SEASON OF CREATION.,** CARE OF CREATION. HERITAGE
10. **OCTOBER. FAMILY ON MISSION**. Evangelisation and outreach, spiritual and practical by & to families.
11. **NOVEMBER. FAMILIES AND LOSS.** Biodiversity and extinction. Death Exam time.
12. **DECEMBER. ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**. Family – hope for the future.

**SIGNS OF HOPE** from Pope Francis: *‘We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God’s saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.” SNC 7* **Existing and needed Signs of Hope in and by the community :**

1. The **desire for peace** in the world. Peacemakers are called “children of God.” Mt 5:9.
2. **Enthusiasm for transmission of life;** “a social covenant to support and foster hope that is inclusive and not ideological, working for future filled with the laughter of babies and children.” Responsible parenthood.
3. **Recovering the joy of living.** Created in God’s image we cannot be content with getting along one day at a time and seeking fulfilment in material realities alone.
4. **Prisoners** need tangible signs of hope as they aredeprived of their freedom, feel the harshness of detention, restrictions, lack of affection and respect.
5. **The Sick** at home or hospital look for signs of hope through works of mercy, affection and closeness to them, gratitude offered to their carers and inclusive attention to those with **disabilities** respecting their human dignity.
6. **Young people** volunteering help is a sign of hope, but everyone’s efforts to reach out and draw close to them are essential for them as they are the joy and hope for the future.
7. **Migrants, exiles, refugees and displaced persons.** Hope is a spirit of welcome and respect for their dignity by everyone and their practical needs being addressed, by authorities and community.
8. **The elderly, grandparents and the lonely** deserve the esteem and gratitude shown for their contributions, wisdom and the treasure they are for families and society.
9. **The poor** who areoften forgotten need the recognition and awareness from everyone as signs of hope for them.
10. May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are **most vulnerable,** opening wide its doors to welcome them. That is THE SIGN OF HOPE we are called to provide in, with, for and by families.

**RESOURCES:** **Church:** https://www.iubilaeum2025.va bishops, diocesan, social media groups,

**MARFAM:**  **FAMILY YEAR PLANNER CALENDAR** themes plus liturgical and other commemorations.

**THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY** with concepts Becoming Eco-Friendly Families and becoming Pilgrims of Hope. The SEE-JUDGE-ACT approach aims at families, individuals and groups for reflection and synodal faith sharing,  **LOW COST PUBLICATIONS:** from MARFAM shop [www.marfam.org.za](http://www.marfam.org.za) and print copies. **On family life:** *BECOMING MARRIED, BECOMING WIDOWED, PARENTING A LABOUR OF LOVE, AN HOUR OF PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE – PRAYING THE ROSARY, STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR FAMILIES, FOR BEREAVED, WIDOWED in various languages.*  **On environment:** *BECOMING ECO-FRIENDLY FAMILIES. FAMILIES CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION. TR MARFAM Jan 2025.* *toni@marfam.org.za*[*www.marfam.org.za*](http://www.marfam.org.za) *0825521275*