



Pilgrims on the way of Hope: A Resource for the Jubilee of the World of Communications

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Jubilee of the World of Communications: Resource Packet

January 24-26, 2025

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Jubilee 2025 invites you to be a pilgrim of hope. For Christians, hope is anchored in the encounter with Jesus whose life, death, and resurrection reveals God's transforming love. Our hope in God is renewed constantly in the gift of the Holy Spirit, the love of the Father and the Son, who is given, even now, to the community of believers.

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. The Jubilee of the World of Communications will be held from Friday, January 24, to Sunday, January 26, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating the important role of communications in the Church at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration for the Jubilee of the World of



Communications. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for the communications community.

For people who are making a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome or to a particular Jubilee celebration in a diocese or eparchy within the United States during 2025, this packet can also serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip.

Additional resources for the Jubilee of the World of Communications and other celebrations can be found online at the USCCB Jubilee Year web pages: available in English at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025> and available in Spanish at <https://www.usccb.org/es/committees/jubileo-2025>.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

In all that we do, all our interactions and conversation should be rooted in prayer. If we are not listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit communicating the life and mystery of



God to us, then how can we effectively be icons of the Christ, sharing in His attitude?

In our interactions and conversations, communication isn't just about how we talk, what we say, our facial expressions and body language. *It's also about how well and respectfully we listen!* Like our prayer, all communication is a two-way street.

St. Paul's image of the Church as the Body of Christ is particularly powerful when considering the Holy Father's call to be a listening Church. We must rely upon one another. Just as the heart relies on the lungs, so too the lungs depend on the heart. Where would the hand be without the brain? How would we recover from the flu without an immune system?

We rely on one another, we need one another, we are in this life and world together! Listening deeply and communicating respectfully are the baseline for our growth as the Church, the Body of Christ.

In anticipation of the Jubilee of the World of Communications, set within a yearlong celebration of hope, we remember the words of Pope Francis in his message for the 27th World Day of Social Communications:

We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters. I dream of an ecclesial communication that knows how to let itself be guided by the Holy Spirit, gentle and at the same time, prophetic, that knows how to find new ways and means for the wonderful proclamation it is called to deliver in the third millennium. A communication which puts the relationship with God and one's neighbour, especially the neediest, at the centre and which knows how to light the fire of faith rather than preserve the ashes of a self-referential identity. A form of

communication founded on humility in listening and parrhesia in speaking, which never separates truth from charity.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PILGRIM PREPARATION - ROME

One major element of the Jubilee celebration for Catholics is making a pilgrimage. For some, that may involve going to Rome, where international pilgrims traditionally visit the Holy Doors of the four great basilicas (Saint Peter, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran). For most others, though, local Jubilee pilgrimages can be made to diocesan or eparchial cathedrals, churches, and/or religious sites.

If headed to Rome for the Jubilee of the World of Communications:

Should you or your ministry/group/community decide to travel to Rome, in particular for the Jubilee of the World of Communication (January 24-26, 2025), the following may be useful:

- You can develop a trip on your own or go through a licensed tour operator that specializes or has experience in religious travel. The latter option may cost extra, but it can save a local organizer time; additionally, those operators may have existing connections with vendors and may be able to advise on travel concerns. PLEASE NOTE: The USCCB does not endorse nor identify any licensed tour operator as the official U.S. tour operator.



- The official Jubilee events for the World of Communications begin January 24 (see [here](#)), include welcome and prayer organized by the Vicariate of the Diocese of Rome, Jubilee rites through Holy Doors, cultural events in different symbolic places in Rome, and the Closing Mass on the “Sunday of the Word of God.” Participating in these activities will offer pilgrims the full Jubilee experience.
- Pilgrims and groups may also consider additional activities, either planned on their own or events hosted by organizations, apostolates, episcopal conferences, or movements.
- Prepare with liturgies, retreats, devotional and service experiences, community building, catechesis, and fundraising, as needed. Take time for prayer, especially with the Blessed Sacrament. Recommended reading should include Pope Francis’s messages for the World Day of Social Communications.
- Practical travel preparation will be essential, especially since the Jubilee events in 2025 are expected to draw very large crowds to Rome.
- Pilgrims should bring backpacks, comfortable shoes, appropriate clothing, necessary medications and supplies, and resources that aid in pilgrim prayer. Packing light is essential.
- After returning home or to the United States, take time for prayer and theological reflection on the graces of God received during the pilgrimage to Rome. If you went as a group, continue to gather in the weeks and months following the trip to support one another and coordinate missionary actions.

If coordinating a local pilgrimage within the United States:

It is highly recommended to make a pilgrimage to one's own diocesan or eparchial cathedral or other church(es) or religious site(s) designated by the bishop.

- Planning for a local pilgrimage can take place at any time of year, or it can be done at the same time as the events for the World of Communication in Rome (around January 24-26, 2025). The timing, as well as the exact local destination, is at the discretion of the local organizer(s).
- Research the pilgrimage destination to ensure that your visit does not coincide with liturgical or local community events or is being done within the posted opening hours for the site. You may wish to contact someone in leadership at the location in advance, especially if you plan to bring a group.
- Before embarking on the local pilgrimage, consider taking time for prayer and community-building similar to the type of spiritual preparation one would take for an international journey (i.e. to Rome or World Youth Day).
- Prepare with a walking pilgrimage within or around the parish, campus, or local community, in particular if the journey to the cathedral or other major site involves some walking. In fact, consider adding a walking component if one is not naturally part of the program, as the spirituality of physical movement is a key ingredient to a spiritual pilgrimage.



- After returning home (even if the trip was local), take time for prayer and theological reflection on the graces of God received during the pilgrimage experience. If you went as a group, continue to gather in the weeks and months following the trip to support one another and coordinate missionary actions.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING COMMUNICATIONS LOCALLY

Suggestions for Parishes

- Use the weekend liturgies on January 24-26 (Sunday of the Word of God) to recognize the important role of communication in sharing the Good News: in the homily, general intercessions, with a special blessing, or by inviting communications professionals to serve in key liturgical roles. An example of a petition for the Prayer of the Faithful might include:

*For the Church throughout the world:
For Pope Francis, Church leaders, and
Christians everywhere. May they
communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ
with courage and conviction.
Lord, hear us.*

*For all involved in the work of
communications and media:
that their work may serve the cause of truth
and justice and help us overcome division.
Lord, hear us.*

*For a desire to be faithful witness to the
Gospel: That people everywhere may hear
God's good news for the world.
Lord, hear us.*

- Have a reception or networking activity after all weekend Masses on January 24-26 (Sunday of the Word of God) and make a concerted effort to invite communications professionals or students pursuing a career in communication. This could include diocesan and secular media, videographers, graphic designers, writers, publishers, and people who work in public relations, marketing, public information, and digital and social media. During those gatherings, offer food and drink, opportunities to meet-and-mingle, and invitations to deeper faith engagement.
- Host a Jubilee prayer service, held at the parish at some point between January 24-26 (Sunday of the Word of God), that recognizes communications professionals, their gifts, and their contributions to society and to the Church.
- Plan a local pilgrimage to the diocesan/eparchial cathedral or to another religious site or church in your area, using the ideas laid out in the previous section.
- Livestream or replay video of key Jubilee events (e.g., Closing Mass) taking place in Rome between January 24-26 (Sunday of the Word of God) at a gathering held at the parish (noting the time difference between Rome and your local area).



Suggestions for Dioceses and Eparchies

- Celebrate a liturgy or host a prayer service aimed at communications professionals at the diocesan/eparchial cathedral between January 24-26 (Sunday of the Word of God), concurrent with the Jubilee celebrations happening in Rome. Invite all parishes across the diocese to attend. Prayer cards from the Catholic Communication Campaign are a good way to commemorate the event and ensure ongoing prayer for good communications. Dioceses can contact the USCCB's Office of National Collections to receive the prayer cards.
- Hold a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee walking pilgrimage from the cathedral (or another site of your choosing) to religious sites, churches, universities/schools, and/or to a Catholic-led social services center or institution. Consider also inviting the bishop on this journey.
- Post stories about communications professionals on the diocesan or eparchial website, social media channels, and communications (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, etc.) prior to and/or during the Jubilee of the World of Communications in January 2025.
- Host a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee gathering with the bishop/eparch. This can be a presentation, dialogue/discussion, meet-and-greet social, meal, liturgy, and/or a virtual event, allowing communications professionals across the diocese/eparchy to engage with their episcopal shepherd.

- Encourage all diocesan/eparchial offices and departments to feature, celebrate, or acknowledge the important role of communications and communications professionals during January 2025, centered around the global Jubilee celebrations. This might need to be preceded by a workshop or meeting with diocesan/eparchial staff to coordinate efforts.
- Inaugurate a diocesan/eparchial initiative for communications professionals beginning with the Jubilee celebrations. This might include an area-wide evangelization effort; an annual award/recognition ceremony; an annual liturgy with the bishop; scholarship funds for college or graduate students; or an annual pilgrimage, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

Message of the Holy Father Francis for World Communications Days

The Vatican Dicastery for Communications has a compilation of the Holy Father's annual messages for World Communication Day. Available online here: <https://www.comunicazione.va/en/magistero/wcd-messages.html>.



KEY SAINTS

- **Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, and Michael (feast day September 29)**, servants and messengers of God. "Because they 'always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven' they are the mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 329).
- **St. Paul the Apostle (5-67, feast day June 29)**, patron of missionaries, evangelists, writers, journalists, authors, public workers, rope and saddle makers, and tent makers. St. Paul, whose writings are contained in the Canon of the Bible, transformed his life after an encounter with the Risen Lord and became one of the most important and influential of all the saints.
- **St. Hildegard (1098-1179, feast day September 17)**, patron saint of musicians and writers. A Doctor of the Church and mystic, St. Hildegard was a talented poet, composer, and writer, who traveled widely to evangelize to large groups of people.
- **St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253, feast day August 11)**, patron saint of television, bike messengers, eye disease, goldsmiths, good weather, and needle workers. Inspired by her friend Saint Francis of Assisi, St. Clare dedicated her life to poverty, prayer, and service and founded the Order of Poor Ladies (now known as the Poor Clares).
- **St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622, feast day January 24)**, patron of the Catholic writers, Catholic press, the deaf, journalists, and adult education. A Doctor of the Church, St. Francis was devoted to evangelization and catechesis through preaching and writing.
- **St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941, feast day August 14)**, patron of journalists, media communications, the family, and the chemically addicted. A Martyr of Charity, St. Maximilian used modern communication techniques to share the faith before his persecution under the Nazi regime and death in a concentration camp.
- **St. Titus Brandsma, (1881-1942, feast day July 27)**, a Dutch Carmelite priest, journalist and martyr, he was arrested by the Nazis after personally delivering to the editors ordering them not to print official Nazi documents. He was killed by lethal injection at the Dachau death camp.
- **Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006)**, proposed patron of young people, computer programmers, and the Internet. Carlo was an Italian website designer who documented Eucharistic miracles and Marian apparitions on a website he designed. On July 1, 2024, Pope Francis presided at an Ordinary Consistory of Cardinals, which approved the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis.



PRAYERS

Prayer of Saint Francis de Sales

Be at Peace

Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them.

He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in his arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering, or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

Amen.

St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

Patron of Journalists, Writers, Editors and the Catholic Press.

Found [here](#).

Pope's Prayer for Communications

Lord, teach us to move beyond ourselves, and to set out in search of truth.

Teach us to go out and see, teach us to listen, not to entertain prejudices or draw hasty conclusions.

Teach us to go where no one else will go, to take the time needed to understand, to pay attention to the essentials, not to be distracted by the superfluous, to distinguish deceptive appearances from the truth.

Grant us the grace to recognize your dwelling places in our world and the honesty needed to tell others what we have seen.

Amen.

From the message of the Holy Father for World Communications Day 2021.

Found [here](#).

Prayer for Communicators

Lord, let the good news of your marvelous deeds fall on every ear, and let all tongues rejoice in your wisdom, your compassion, your faithfulness, and your love.

Make me bold and let me share your Word with those you desire to reach.

As my heart overflows with your love, speak through me.

Let me proclaim your glory and your majesty, and tell of the kindness you have shown your people.

This I ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Found [here](#).



Communications Prayer for Those Working in Diocesan and Parish Communications

*Holy Spirit,
you blessed the first disciples
with the power to spread God's love
throughout the world.
Give me a new power to proclaim your
word through my own unique gifts
and through the channels of clear
communications.
Make me willing to receive that word
as it enters my daily life.
Bless all who use their talents
in the field of communications.
Guide those who send out the message and
those who receive it,
so that all people
may come to know your truth
and be renewed by your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.*

Found [here](#).

Prayer for Journalists

*Almighty God, strengthen and direct,
we pray, the will of all whose work it is to
write what many read, and to speak where
many listen. May we be bold to confront evil
and injustice: understanding and
compassionate of human weakness;
rejecting alike the half-truth which deceives,
and the slanted word which corrupts.
May the power which is ours, for good or ill,
always be used with honesty and courage,
with respect and integrity,
so that, when all here has been written, said
and done, we may, unashamed,
meet Thee face to face, through Jesus Christ
our Lord,
Amen.*

Found [here](#).

Catholic Communication Campaign Prayer

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Help us to recognize the evil latent in a
communication that does not build
communion.
Help us to remove the venom from our
judgments. Help us to speak about others as our
brothers and sisters.*

*You are faithful and trustworthy; may our words
be seeds of goodness for the world:
where there is shouting, let us practice listening;
where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
where there is superficiality, let us raise real
questions;
where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;
where there is hostility, let us bring respect;
where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.
Amen.*

Found [here](#).

