



October 28, 2024

Feast of Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sendai Diocese,

On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis declared the year 2025 a Jubilee Year in a Bull entitled “Hope does not disappoint”. Herewith I send the schedule of activities and related materials for our Jubilee celebration in the Diocese of Sendai.

Let us take the first step of our pilgrimage on December 29 at 2:00 p.m. in our Cathedral when we celebrate the Mass of the Feast of the Holy Family as the solemn opening of the Jubilee.

In fact, our whole life is a pilgrimage, and we need to rest regularly during our journey. For us Christians, Sunday is that day of rest. It is the day "blessed" by God, and set apart from the other days to be, among all of them, "the Lord's Day". Let us take part regularly in the Sunday Eucharistic assembly. In the Eucharist, our Risen Lord Jesus Christ gives us the light of his word and the nourishment for our tired body and soul. The grace flowing from this wellspring renews us.

I encourage you to do a pilgrimage to the five churches (one for every district), a martyrs' site and a martyrs' memorial in our diocese that I have designated as pilgrim place. Take time to pray there, read passages of the Bible and reflect upon them, seek the forgiveness of the Lord for your sins through the Sacrament of Penance, attend Mass and receive Holy Communion.

Just as our Lord Jesus was attentive to the needs of those He journeyed with, let us be mindful of our fellow travelers in life. The Corporal Works of Mercy have always been a part of our Christian Tradition. They are found in the teachings of our Lord Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat others. The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy are feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, visiting the sick, sheltering the homeless, visiting the prisoners, burying the dead, and giving alms to the poor. May these works guide us to come to the aid of our neighbor.

Let us allow ourselves to receive the “indulgence” of God through corporal works of mercy and pilgrimage. Indulgence means, among others, “extravagance”, “kindness”, “patience”, “understanding”. We don’t achieve indulgence because of our efforts. God grants it graciously. Pope Francis in his letter about the Jubilee writes that “God’s holy and faithful people has experienced 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.”

May the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation.

Multilingual version



+ Your Fellow Pilgrim of Hope,
Edgar Gacutan

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Bishop of Diocese of Sendai