

MISSION

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We'd love to talk about
how your generosity
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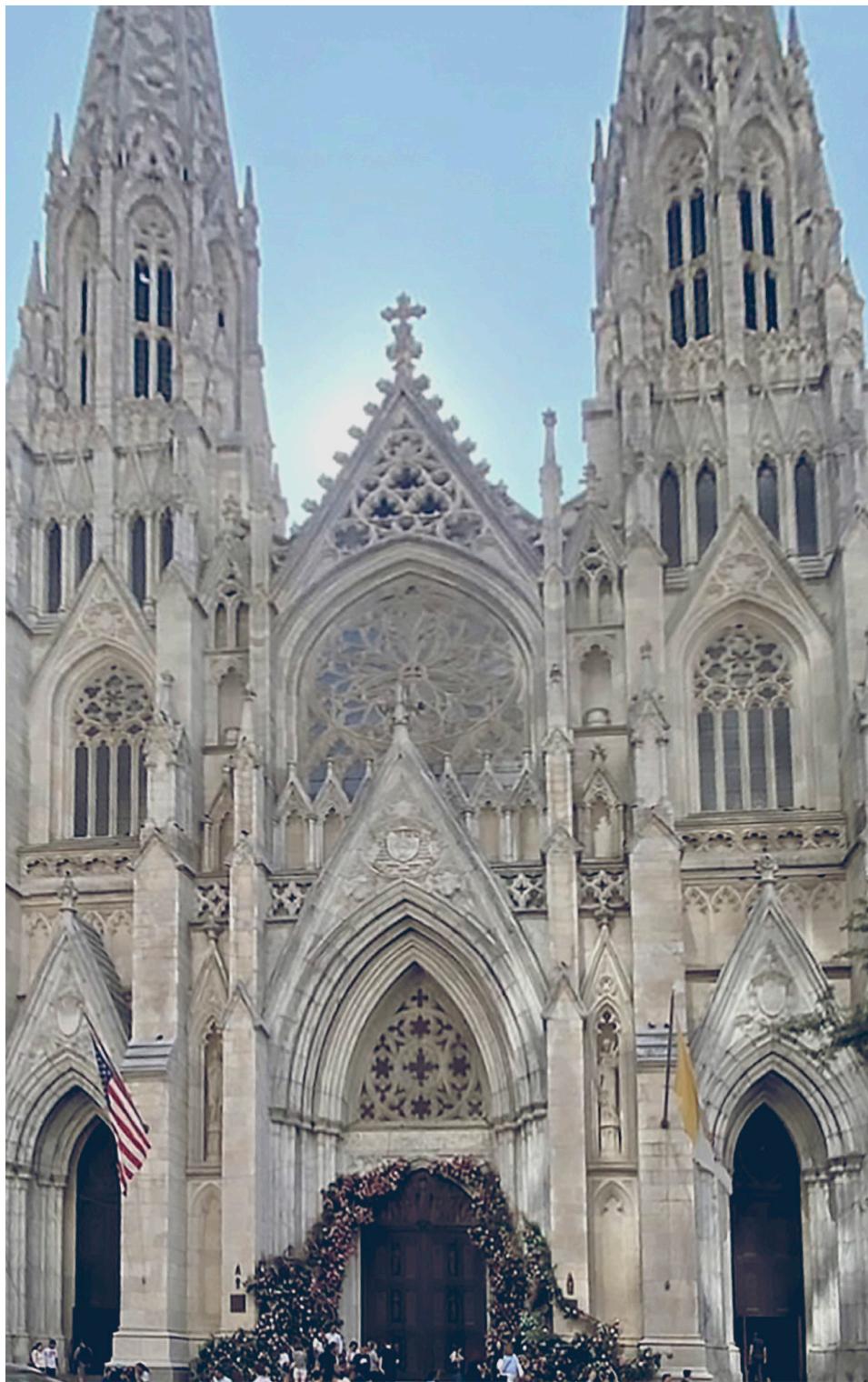
JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

The first Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church was promulgated by Pope Boniface VIII in the year 1300. Pope Boniface certainly was inspired by the Biblical notion of the Jubilee Year found in Leviticus Chapter 25 which focused on the key concepts of rest, liberation, renewal, debt forgiveness and mercy. It was a time when slaves were set free, land was returned to its original owner and liberty was proclaimed throughout the land. Theologically, the Jubilee year had great significance because the primary point was to acknowledge that God is the true owner of all the land of the earth, that our social relationships with other people should be just and upright, and that we are to trust fully in God's Providence as was expressed by allowing even the land to rest for the year. The jubilee year also prefigured the coming of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who liberates us from sin and death, makes us brothers and sisters in the family of God, and restores us to communion with God.

The Jubilee dimension of returning to God, penance, forgiveness and restoration also gave rise to the perspective of pilgrimage. The Israelites were commanded to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem for major feasts like Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles. Similarly, Pope Boniface VIII also invited the faithful to make pilgrimage to Rome, the earthly seat of Holy Mother Church, as a sign of our earthly sojourn to our heavenly homeland. Amazingly, it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from across Europe arrived by foot, boat, horse or a combination of the three, in order to travel to the heart of Christianity to be granted a plenary indulgence for the remission of the temporal punishment due to sin. They braved physical hardships,

language barriers, disease and illness, and even robbers in order to arrive in Rome through the *Porta del Popolo* or other ancient gate, and visit the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul. The journey to Rome symbolized the pilgrimage of life that sees us set off from our creation in God to travel on paths that are sometimes arduous and challenging, in the hope of arriving safely at our heavenly homeland.

Fr. John McHugh, the beloved first priest in SOLT after our founder, Fr. James Flanagan, once shared with me the following true story of some dear friends of his from Colorado. The husband was on his death bed with his wife by his side. They had enjoyed a long, fruitful and beautiful life together. He turned to his wife and said, "There has to be one moment in our life that is the most important and special." His wife looked at him lovingly and thought to herself, "I bet he will talk about our wedding day, or the birth of one of our children." But the husband continued, "It is the moment that I am about to experience, meeting Jesus face to face at the end of my life. I want to thank you for journeying with me to this point." In essence, he summarized what life is all about – a journey of faith with other people moving towards an encounter with Jesus at the end of life. The Jubilee Year is intended to provoke us to ask ourselves the questions: "Am I prepared to meet Jesus at this point in my pilgrimage of life?"; "Am I a faithful companion



leading my loved ones and others towards the successful completion of their life journey?" We came from God and to God we shall return. It only makes sense that God would be at the center of our life now!

In this edition of the Mission Magazine, you will encounter various reflections on the Jubilee Year. Our sincere hope is that this

Jubilee Year would be a special time of grace whereby we are renewed and strengthened on our journey of faith and hope towards Jesus Christ.



Fr. Peter Marsalek, **SOLT**
SOLT GENERAL PRIEST SERVANT

JUBILEE



DEAR FAMILY AND FRIEND OF SOLT,

A True Pilgrim of Hope goes forth on a pilgrimage with the daily itinerary of having many living encounters with the living Lord Jesus Christ. Each encounter brings about a renewal of life through the paths of conversion, communion and solidarity. Each pilgrim knows that they need a guide and that the journey will involve sacrifices, but every encounter is well worth it.

If you were to prepare the itinerary of such a pilgrimage what would it include? Who would be involved? What would be the cost? What would be the means of transportation and the timeframe? What would the brochure look like and how would you get people interested?

THINK OF THE PILGRIMAGES OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph were united in prayer and purpose. They always trusted in Divine Providence. They were always attentive to God's Will and service to each other. This reality brought them joy amidst the sorrows and darkness of this world. Thus, they brought Light to others while smiling and radiating confidence in God's goodness.

With this in mind and heart you can now plan and go forth on your Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope. Remember to get others involved. Each day renew your enthusiasm about the pilgrimage into the life of the Most Holy Trinity.

While you travel remember to pray, fast and give alms. In your prayers remember that we need silence and Scripture. Make time for this most important part of the pilgrimage. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Community prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours and the Holy Rosary are the highlights of the pilgrimage.

Along the way we will also come to understand that almsgiving is the fruit of our prayer and fasting. Service to our brothers and sisters is the fruit of silence and study of Sacred Scripture. Furthermore, when we contemplate the face of Christ in the school of Mary, as we pray the most Holy Rosary, we enter into the mysteries of the lives of Jesus and Mary and Joseph who always served those in need.

Almsgiving is putting love into action through the seven corporal works of mercy and the seven spiritual works of mercy. An extremely important act of mercy is praying for the living and dead. We should do everything possible to gain plenary indulgences and give them to our Lady as she sees fit. This is very important for the living and for the holy souls in purgatory.

One can gain a plenary indulgence by intending to gain the indulgence prior to fulfilling the following conditions:

1. Indulged Act: Holy Hour of Adoration (half hour

minimum); or half hour of spiritual reading and meditation; or the Way of the Cross; or a Holy Rosary prayed in Church or with the intention to pray in Church if impaired.

2. Communion received in a state of grace.
3. Confession: the traditional 8 days before or after the Indulged Act has been extended to 20 days before or after the Indulgence act.
4. Prayers for the Holy Father's intentions such as an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.
5. Detachment from sin.

Additionally, in this special year of the Jubilee one can gain up to 2 plenary indulgences per day if you receive a second Holy Communion at Mass, perform a specially designated Indulged Act and go to Confession near the time of doing the Indulged Act. Remember to pray for the Holy Father's intentions and be detached from sin.

The second one must be applied to a soul in purgatory.

The special Indulged Acts granted in the Decree from Rome include:

1. Pilgrimage to a jubilee site
2. Perform works of mercy
3. Fasting for at least a day according to church rules
4. Pro-life works
5. Giving "a proportionate sum

of money to the poor"

6. Offering "support to migrants, elderly, poor, young people in difficulty and abandoned children"
7. Abstaining for at least 1 day a week from "futile, distractions such as social media or television"
8. Volunteering in service to your community

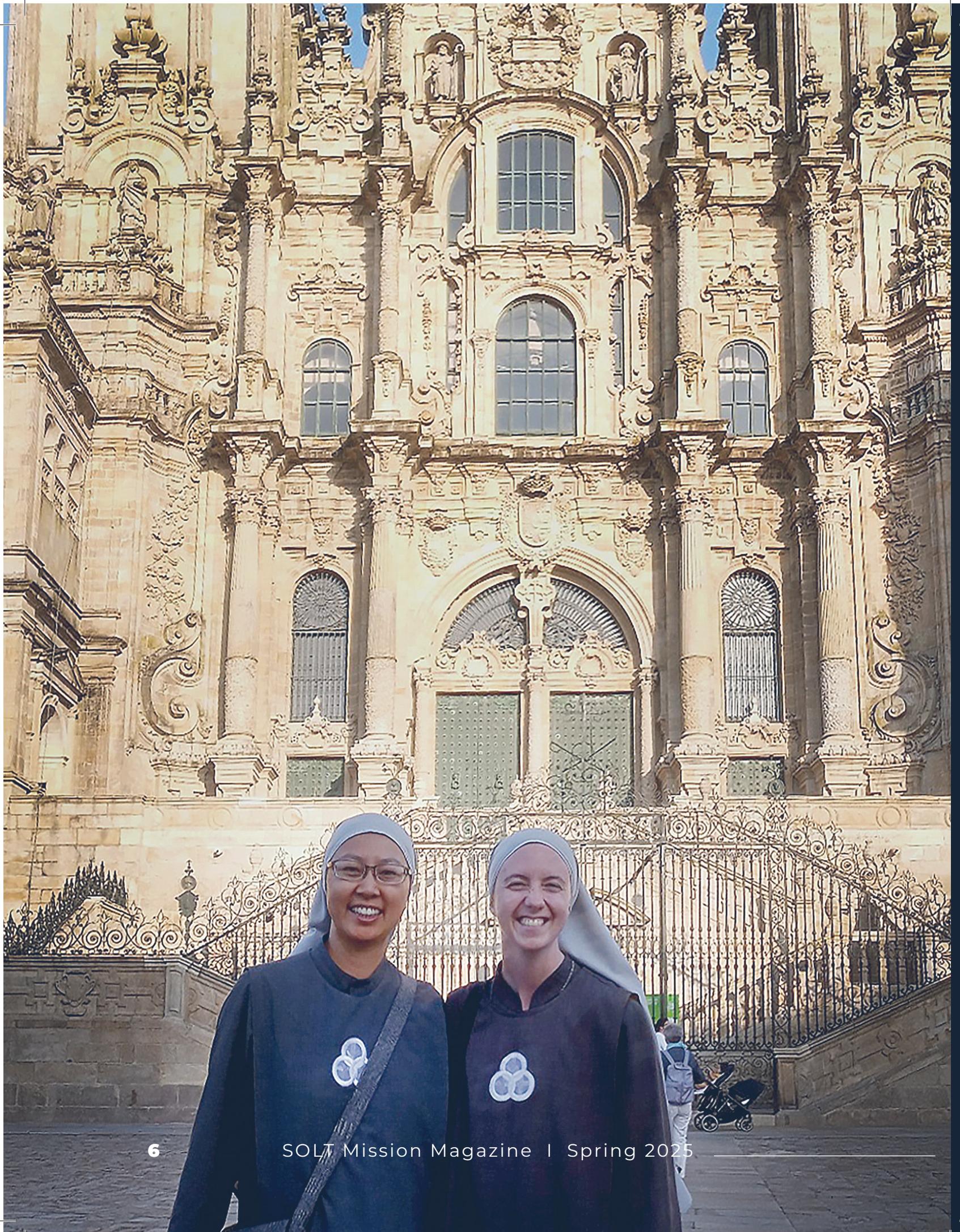
A single Sacramental Confession is sufficient for several plenary indulgences as long as it is done within the time frame prescribed and Holy Communion is received in a state of grace. Remember frequent Sacramental Confession is encouraged to receive grace and help you on your journey to a deeper communion with God.

During this Jubilee year let us be transformed in the fires of Divine Love as we head towards Union with the Most Holy Trinity.

Let us be one with the Holy Family in prayer and fasting and almsgiving. Let us enter into this pilgrimage with the Holy Spirit teaching us to become Saints by doing Our Father's Holy Will with faith, hope and Charity.



+In the United Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Fr. Zachary of the Mother of God, **SOLT**



NEED. GRACE. PAIN. COMMUNION.

This past summer, I walked about 55 miles of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela – in four days. I was with the ACE program from the University of Notre Dame on their annual Vocations Pilgrimage.

One day I wrote in my journal: *“The Kingdom of Heaven is like... the Camino de Santiago.”*

There is a realness about a walking pilgrimage: no masks, no quick fixes, no short cuts. I need help from you, because I’ve run out of water. Or I used up my Tylenol. I am hot, stinky, weary, and in pain, and so is my neighbor. How will we help each other arrive at our destination? I need to follow the yellow arrows pointing out the way, or I will get lost off the trail.

There is also piercing beauty in pilgrimage. I knew in a unique sense that I needed the Eucharist of each day to give me the strength to keep going. Each flower, each breeze, each water spring we passed I received as pure Providence sent my way. I grew so close with what was originally a group of complete strangers, coming to share with them heartfelt conversation and prayer as a community. My soul expanded as I journeyed with the Lord each day.

So, when it is said for this year that we are Pilgrims of Hope, I understand what that means to me. Do you know what it means to you? Pope Francis wrote in the Papal Bull of the Jubilee Year, *“Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life”* (#5). This invitation helps me evaluate the meaning of my pilgrimage through life with a fresh focal point. Am I on the path? Do I have people around me who are journeying with me? Do I have sufficient daily sustenance? Do I know where to go to find help and healing?

I remember when I walked up the last incline into Santiago de Compostela and finally arrived to the end of my pilgrimage, people in the street were staring at me, partly because I had a huge silly “victory grin” on my face. Let us not forget that our pilgrimage on earth will also come to an end; we are not pilgrims forever! If we journey with Him, Jesus Christ will not disappoint our hope.



Sr. Mary Rachel, **SOLT**



I WILL LIVE FOREVER IN THE LOVE



“I am loved, therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me.”

I am loved, therefore I exist;” SPES NON CONFUNDIT #21

Pope Francis declares the truth that God loved each of us into existence, irrespective of the circumstances of our conception. Our families are icons and instruments of this love. As icons, families are a physical sign in the world of a spiritual reality. Forgiving each other and becoming freer to be the saints God calls us to be, make us clearer images of God in a disheartened world. As instruments, God uses our prayers and actions, specifically those designated for the Jubilee Year of Hope, to spread the grace of Jesus Christ. Sabbath rest encourages us, not to do more, but to create space for Him to make us more. Our practice of jubilee, leads us more deeply into communion

To share that communion, the Kansas City ecclesial team hosted a two evening Lenten Jubilee of Hope retreat at Our Lady’s Montessori School. Parents and friends joined with us, exploring Jubilee as this moment marked in time to intentionally cultivate the virtue of hope (#1 SNC) through patience, perseverance, humility, and obedience. These are prerequisites for living the Jubilee themes of rest, pilgrimage, forgiveness, and freedom. Openness to God and forgiveness in relationship were emphasized in freeing us and our families to move deeper into the communion of God’s eternal love. The evenings included prayer and lively discussion.

The children, too, had a time of jubilee. In addition to works themed on hope, they enjoyed a pilgrimage scavenger hunt which led them to the Source of all hope: Jesus in the Eucharist in the Oratory!

Together, we are planning a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, MO to put our evenings of contemplation into action. We desire to share the Source of our hope and the graces of this year with those most in need of God’s merciful love.

“I am loved, therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me.” (#21 SNC)

**“COME AWAY
BY YOURSELVES
TO A DESERTED
PLACE AND REST
A WHILE.”**





Jesus extends an invitation to each of us: to encounter Him and find rest in quiet places.

At Our Lady of Corpus Christi (OLCC), we are honored to provide a sacred space where this encounter can happen. Every month, OLCC offers retreats designed for those who respond to Christ's call.

Rooted in the spirituality of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT), these retreats include Marian consecration, discipleship, healing, and Ignatian themes, among others. This year, our team of priests, brothers, sisters, and laity has been hard at work enhancing our campus—improving aesthetics, hospitality, and content—to create the best possible experience for visitors to meet Christ.

In addition to our hosted retreats, OLCC welcomes groups from local parishes and beyond. While many participants come from the Corpus Christi area, others travel from across Texas, and we are blessed to accompany them on their faith journeys. As the International and Regional Headquarters of SOLT, we also have the unique blessing of having SOLT leadership nearby, whose talks and sacramental ministry enrich the retreat experience for many.



For me personally, serving in this ministry has been a profound blessing. In the midst of the work, I often pause to bring my cares to Jesus in the Adoration Chapel or to pray while walking the Marian Rosary Garden. Preparing to welcome others into retreat often inspires me to deepen my own spiritual life, as I immerse myself in reading and reflection for the talks I give.

This first year at OLCC has been both a learning curve and a gift. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to grow in ministry and to witness how God is working in the lives of those who visit OLCC.



Sr. Mary Mediatrix of All Grace, **SOLT**





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