



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Lent 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is no coincidence that the global inauguration of our 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope occurred on the Solemnity of the Holy Family. The Jubilee Year of Hope in this 2025 Lenten season runs through the family and fidelity to the splendors of the liberating and objective truths of Christ and the Catholic Church on Marriage and the Family.

Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving lead individual family members to Christ's light of conversion and repentance. Conversion and repentance, in turn, open families to a family spirit and daily chemistry animated by the Holy Spirit. Family patterns ensnared in the ruts of sin become family patterns transformed by the grooves of grace, humility, charity and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Jubilee Year of Hope runs through every family experiencing Christ's Cross: grief, tragedy, crisis, tension, alienation and transition.

Pope Francis emphasized: "All of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered and hearts overwhelmed by adversity. We are called to bring hope to the weary who have no strength to carry on, the lonely oppressed by the bitterness of failure, and all those who are broken-hearted. To bring hope to the interminable, dreary days of prisoners, to the cold and dismal lodging of the poor, and to all those places desecrated by war and violence. To bring hope there, to sow hope there."<sup>1</sup>

The Holy Family was a refugee family and they are deeply present today to every struggling refugee family in the world to rekindle their hope. The Lenten season of the Jubilee Year of Hope reminds us that while all families are imperfect and have their problems and challenges, all families are called to grow together in holiness and a missionary spirit.

And so we heed the powerful words of St. Paul as they apply to our daily family life: "Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another... Let the peace of Christ control your hearts... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:12-17)

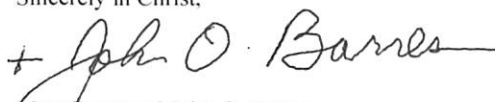
Our Lady invites us to have a pondering heart as we contemplate God's providential design in the past, present and future of our families, especially as we begin this Lenten season in the Jubilee Year of Hope. In unity with the Holy Family, our own families are called to transform the world and history with Christ's love and the mission of mercy of the Church which He Himself founded.

In the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, the Church presents us with the canonizations of soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis (1991-2006) and Saint Piergiorgio Frassati (1900-1924). As children, teenagers and young adults, they helped Christ transform their own families with their faith and their holiness as they helped Christ transform the Church and the world to this day. Together, they are asking every young Catholic to do the same in their time, in their place and in their own family.

The 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope is a time for us and our extended families to cast the nets of Eucharistic charity throughout Long Island, understanding that the Eucharist is a "Fountain of Charity" -- a Fountain of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, a Fountain of the Gospel of Life and a Fountain of every dimension of Catholic Social Justice teaching.

As the Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, I want to thank every Catholic family on Long Island and beyond for being Lights of Christ's Hope and Lights of Catholic evangelization to the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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<sup>1</sup>Francis, "Opening of the Holy Door and Midnight Mass: Homily" (December 24, 2024).  
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2024/documents/20241224-omelia-natale.html>.