



Decree on Designating Sacred Places for the Jubilee Indulgence

To the faithful of the Diocese of Helena:

Greetings to you this Jubilee Year of Hope! Last May, our Holy Father Pope Francis released the Bull of Indiction *Spes non confundit* ("Hope does not disappoint") announcing this Jubilee Year 2025. A Jubilee Year is a significant time in the life of the Church marked by pilgrimages, processions, and a special invitation to the Sacrament of Penance. In it, we are called to receive God's mercy by participating in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and, in a special way, through the practice of the Jubilee Indulgence. In response to this, and in accordance with the directives of the Holy See, I, Austin Anthony Vetter, Bishop of Helena, hereby designate the following sacred places within the Diocese of Helena as places where the faithful may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence:

- ❖ Cathedral of St. Helena, Helena
- ❖ St. Teresa of the Little Flower Church, Browning
- ❖ St. Joseph Church, Libby
- ❖ St. Ignatius Mission Church, St. Ignatius
- ❖ St. Rose of Lima Church, Dillon
- ❖ Holy Rosary Church, Bozeman
- ❖ All Saints Chapel, Carroll College, Helena

These sacred places have been chosen to reflect the spiritual significance of pilgrimage and to foster deeper conversion among the people of God. The visit is not merely an outward action but a reflection of the soul's pilgrimage toward God. In making a pilgrimage or pious visit to these sacred places, the faithful may gain the Plenary Indulgence by fulfilling the following conditions:

- Participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (or another service such as the Liturgy of the Hours, the Way of the Cross, or the Rosary) and Reception of Holy Communion (at least within 7 days before or after the visit)
- Prayer for the intentions of our Holy Father Pope Francis
- A sincere detachment from sin, including making a Sacramental Confession (at least within 7 days before or after the visit)

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Those who cannot participate in a pilgrimage or pious visit for a serious reason may obtain the Jubilee Indulgence by being truly repentant, reciting the Lord's Prayer, Nicene Creed, and prayers for the Jubilee Year, offering up their sufferings. Furthermore, the faithful may obtain the indulgence by participating seriously in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as if making pilgrimage to Christ present in those served, especially to share hope.

Despite the rule that only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day, the faithful who have carried out an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory, if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day at a Eucharistic Celebration, can obtain the plenary indulgence twice on that same day, applicable only to the deceased.

The period for obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence coincides with the Jubilee Year, as outlined by the Holy See, beginning December 29, 2024, and ending on December 28, 2025.

Given at the Center for Catholic Life in Helena, Montana, on this 4th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord two-thousand twenty-five.

Most Rev. Austin A. Vetter
Bishop of Helena

Ecclesiastical Notary

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