



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope



January marks the beginning of the Jubilee year by the Church. The Jubilee year comes from the old testament and was to be marked every 50 years. It was intended to be a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord," (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2).

It is not a coincidence that the Holy Father's message for the World Day of Peace, the first day of this Jubilee year is entitled "Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace." The message corresponds to the biblical and ecclesial understanding of the Jubilee Year. It is inspired by the Encyclical Letters *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*, and above all by the concepts of Hope and Forgiveness, which are at the heart of the Jubilee, a time for conversion that calls us not to condemn, but instead to bring about reconciliation and peace.

Only from a genuine conversion on all levels – personal, local and international – will true peace be able to flourish, not only in the cessation of conflicts but also in a new reality in which wounds are healed and each person's dignity is recognized. This year when we hear the cries of our brothers and sisters in Gaza, the Ukraine, Lebanon, Israel, Syria, the DRC, Sudan, Venezuela and so many other places where the terror of war and conflict threatens to overshadow the hope for tomorrow, we are called to step forward as peacemakers, pilgrims of compassion, healing, liberation and yes, HOPE.

JPIC Days of Remembrance

January 1

57th World Day of Peace

January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USA)

January 24

Foundation Day Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris



January 26

International Day of Clean Energy

February 1-7

World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 8

International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

February 11

World Day of the Sick



Reflection

- Listen to the [hymn for the 2025 Jubilee](#)
- As you [reflect on the words](#) of the hymn ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with peace.
- How is the Lord calling you to cultivate peace in your heart, in your family, in your community, in your country and in the world?

'Dilexit Nos' Top Takeaways for Nonviolence



Pope Francis' latest encyclical, [Dilexit Nos](#), On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ, is helpful guidance as we carry out our Chapter Call to be caregivers of our common home and to live as peacemakers. Francis states that true peace begins with a transformation of the heart. Nonviolence stems from a commitment to align our thoughts and actions with love, letting the heart guide us toward unity and reconciliation. Only by centering our lives around compassion can we resist the destructive desires and aggressive impulses that fuel violent conflict.

Francis speaks to the relentless cycle of violence, urging a shift away from retaliatory responses and toward a love that "breaks the cycle" of harm. Every act of violence, whether personal or societal, perpetuates a cycle of destruction. Nonviolence requires courageous love, the kind that chooses forgiveness and refuses to mirror aggression with more aggression.

"Dilexit Nos" calls for empathy as the path to recognizing and honoring human dignity. Francis highlights how witnessing the suffering of others, including victims of war and refugees or those who are forcibly displaced, should awaken a compassionate response. He argues that true peace requires us to see the humanity in each person, fostering an empathy that actively resists violence and injustice, and practicing forgiveness as a radical, nonviolent response to conflict.

Pope Francis positions nonviolence not just as an option but as a core part of following Christ. He stresses that "Jesus never promoted violence," reminding us that nonviolent love is central to the Gospel. *Marie Dennis – Senior Director of the [Catholic Nonviolence Initiative](#)*

Bon Secours JPIC Webinar
March 27, 9-10:30am EST
Cultivating Personal Peace
in Daily Life
Guest Facilitator: Mary Joan Park

The workshop will prepare us to embrace our new Chapter Call to live as peacemakers.

Mary Joan (MJ) is the co-founder of Little Friends of Peace, an organization dedicated to fostering nonviolence, empathy, and community building through peace education.

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JPIC Transitions: Gratitude & Welcome

It's the time of year when we welcome new members to the JPIC committee and give gratitude for the service of those who will be stepping down. Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada has served on the JPIC committee for the past 3 years and is stepping down due to her teaching responsibilities. Sr. Rosa was a gift to our committee helping us to understand the complexities that families in Peru face, especially those living on the margins. May you continue to bless your students and community in Trujillo with creative, fun ways to embrace ecological spirituality.

This is an exciting year for our JPIC committee as we welcome two new members and include the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the leadership of Sr. Nathalie Lundolo. Welcome Sr. Sara Gabriela (Gabby) Ruiz Espinoza from Peru and Madalen Bellanger from France. Sr. Gabby is a School Promoter at Fe y Alegria school in Huancayo, Peru and Madalen is a nurse and supports the ecological education efforts at the nursing home in Vendôme. As Sr. Nathalie settles into the DRC, we look forward to working with her to establish a JPIC local area team.



Beatrice Lesourd and new JPIC Committee member, Madalen Bellanger, preparing for eco-workshop, Vendôme, France.

A Prayer for Jubilee

O Great God of all creation, hear our plea.

We pray for an end to broken systems, in a world beset by the ravages of poverty and debt.

We pray for rightness, fairness, justice and grace.

We pray for your light to guide us as we seek your will.

Bless us with an economy that is whole and right, where all can live in dignity and hope and your light shines brightly in every land.

God Most High, Bless us with your Jubilee.

