

JUBILEE OF LORETO 2019 - 2020

PASTORAL INSTRUCTIONS

This blessed year will be a favorable occasion to re-commence the journey on the path to holiness. On the 25th of March, 2019, Pope Francis entrusted us with this important counsel:

*To you and to those who are attached to this Shrine, God, through Mary, entrusts a mission in our time: to bring the Gospel of peace and life to our often distracted contemporaries, taken by earthly interests or immersed in a climate of spiritual aridity. We need simple and wise people, humble and courageous, poor and generous. In short, people who, at Mary's school, welcome the Gospel without reserve into their own lives. Thus, **through the sanctity of the people of God, testimonies of holiness in every state of life will continue to spread from this place through Italy, Europe and the world, to renew the Church and animate society with the leaven of the Kingdom of God.***

It is in this spirit that we are called to live the Jubilee in its main sacramental events and in the signs that characterize it.

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

We are invited to meditate in a particular way on the mystery of the Incarnation, the Gospel Beatitudes, and the the Magnificat. In the Shrine there will be many occasions for hearing the Sacred Scriptures. The groups of pilgrims will be able to make use of catechesis meetings for young people, families, and the sick.

On “Jubilee Fridays” Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa and Monsignor Marco Frisina will offer us interesting points for reflection on on the apostolic exhortation *GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE: the call of holiness in the contemporary world*. I warmly invite you to participate in these meetings for families, young people and adults.

If possible, help the sick and infirm who wish to benefit from these occasions also through technology, which enables us to connect our homes to the Holy House (via streaming, on the *Santa Casa Loreto* YouTube channel and following the directions on the website www.santuarioloreto.it). Here are the dates for these events: in 2019, Friday 15 November; in 2020, Friday 17 January, Friday 21 February and Friday 5 June.

On **Tuesdays during Lent**, we will be helped to enter the spirit of the Gospel Beatitudes, the Magna Carta of our faith.

In the **first week of May**, there will be the **Agorà of the Family**: seven days of meetings and in-depth studies on religious, cultural and artistic subjects on the theme of home and family.

Saturday, September 26, 2020, the Pastoral Conference *Home of Mary, Home of every family* will be held, which will have as its theme *The Home in the Gospel: place of relationships and revelation*.

Further family spirituality meetings are planned for the jubilee year. Useful information can be found on the site www.loretofamily.it

Other events for **young people**: in **2019**, Friday 29 November and Friday 13 December (penitential celebration); in **2020**, Friday 31 January; Friday 28 February; Friday 27 March (penitential celebration); Sunday 5 April (Diocesan Youth Day); Friday 22 May and Friday 12 June.

THE SACRAMENTS

The celebration of the Eucharist will be the culmination of the Jubilee because it is the living and effective encounter with the Word Made Flesh, *in which is contained all the spiritual good of the Church, that is, Christ himself, our Easter* (CCC, 1324). Let us rekindle the desire to draw close to the Eucharist: *it is the Lord Jesus who offers himself for us*. It is not a question of a symbolic presence, but of the true and real presence of the Crucified and Risen Christ, Alive, who wants us to live and who is always waiting for us to start over.

The next publication of the third Italian edition of the **Roman Missal** is an occasion to rediscover the beauty and fruitfulness of

the celebration of the Eucharist. I therefore invite you to study in depth in each parish community the general Order of the Roman Missal. **It is urgent to rediscover the value of the gestures and words of the Liturgy**, helping the faithful to move from signs to mystery, involving therein, through the action of the Spirit, their entire existence.

The worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass is intimately connected to the Eucharistic celebration and ordered to it.

At the Shrine **every day** it will be possible to stay personally in adoration; in addition, community adoration is held every **Thursday** evening and in the Eucharistic processions on **Friday**, when there are organized groups.

Friday, March 20, 2020 Eucharistic Day. At 11:00 am in the Shrine we will celebrate the Eucharist with the parish priests, consecrated persons and the faithful for the intentions of all the people of Loreto, the pilgrims, the members of the Congregation of the Holy House, the benefactors and the members of the network of prayer Living Stones. This will be followed by Eucharistic Adoration, in which parishes and ecclesial groups will participate in turn (*on this day all the other Holy Masses in the Shrine and in the individual parishes will be suspended*).

At 21:00, after the chanting of Vespers, there will be a Eucharistic procession and **solemn benediction of the city and of the world**, at the Porta Marina.

Nourishing ourselves with the Lord's Body and Blood and worshipping his presence helps us to realize that *without him we can do nothing* (Jn 15:5) and that, even though we do so many things on a personal and social level that give us success and visibility, if we lose sight of him, our lives will not rise in flight!

The sacrament of Reconciliation

The sacrament of Reconciliation gives us profound peace with God, with ourselves, with our brothers, and with ourselves, because we experience the love of the Lord Jesus that is greater than all our contradictions all our frailties and all our meanness. This is the premise

of true joy! As happened to Peter and the prodigal son, the Lord *embraces us after our falls, helping us to stand up and get back on our feet. For the true fall, the one that can ruin our lives, is to remain on the ground and not let ourselves be helped* (Christus vivit, 120).

On the cross he saved us from our sins, and, with the same power of his total gift of himself, continues to save us to today by the action of his Spirit. Let us look at his Cross, cling to him, let us let ourselves be saved, *because those who let themselves be saved by him are freed from sin, from sadness, from inner emptiness, from isolation* (Evangelii gaudium, 1).

Let us therefore allow ourselves to be embraced by Christ in the Sacrament of Forgiveness. For this reason, every day in the **penitentiary of the Shrine** there will be confessors available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in the **early hours of the afternoon** a Confessor will also be present in the Shrine.

The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

With his passion, death and resurrection, Jesus gives meaning to suffering and illness, which becomes a means of purification and salvation for us and for others. Let us be healed and lifted up in spirit to face the trial of suffering with the divine power of the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**.

In the Shrine, the **community celebration** of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be facilitated, upon request to the Father Rector by priests who accompany adequately prepared pilgrims.

THE SIGNS OF THE JUBILEE

The Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is an icon of the journey that every person takes in his existence and recalls us to the road that bears us towards God and towards our brothers. To set out on the road towards the Holy House of Loreto means to understand the extraordinary event of the Son of God who set on his journey: he left the Father, he came down from Heaven, making himself Man in the womb of Mary in order to be united with each of us, to cure our wounds, to liberate us from the weight of our guilt, to redeem us from sin and to lead us back to the Father.

The Jubilee pilgrimage reminds us **to go out constantly from ourselves**, to root ourselves in relationship with God and with the Church, going to meet our brothers and sisters to bring them the fruits of *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control* (Gal 5,22).

Worthy suggestions to prepare and **to live the pilgrimage** as an authentic experience of faith are made by the *Directory of Popular Piety and Liturgy*.

In the pilgrim experience it is possible to ascend the **Holy Stairs** that lead to the Shrine: it is an occasion to live the spiritual experience of purification and of penance, recalling, along the way, the principal events of our salvation.

The Holy Door

The opening of the *Holy Door* signals the beginning of the Jubilee Year. It is the door that represents salvation. Jesus in the Gospels says of himself: *I am the door* (Gv 10,9). As if to say: I am the indispensable entrance to access earthly and eternal salvation, to Redemption.

Crossing the door of the church should always express the search, the expectation, the joy of the encounter with God, with the brothers and with the whole Church. Passing through the door means going from a situation of distraction to one of recollection, from ordinariness to celebration, from the frenzy of a thousand things to do to putting oneself at the feet of the Master to listen to him and to share his Paschal Supper, already a foretaste of heavenly joy. The door reminds us of **the entrance into the life of faith that took place in Baptism**.

As soon as we enter the Basilica, we pause before the Baptistry **to renew** our baptismal promises and our **belonging** to the Church, ***the House of God, the pillar and support of truth*** (1 Tim 3:15). This rite carried out in the Shrine of the Holy House evokes more clearly the mystery of God, who within the walls of Mary's house wanted to *make a home with us*, who has come down to us so that our home may become his.

Entering into **the Holy House**, we will spontaneously **converse with Mary and Joseph**, telling them about our lives and about those who are close to our hearts. And it will be a consolation to feel accompanied by their caring presence, which helps us to follow the Lord. In them we will find support and encouragement to engage generously in the proclamation of the Gospel and in the witness of charity; to strengthen the bonds of solidarity, promoting more just and fraternal living conditions for all; to take off the flight of holiness, like the eagle that does not forget its nest, but flies high pointing to heaven.

The Plenary Indulgence

The Indulgence **is not some sort of magic solution** for all problems, but is a concrete method by which the Church takes care of us, helping us to rise from the consequences of evil done and to uproot with patience the roots of disorder that sin has introduced into our lives. **The Church acts as a Mother who care for her people**, sustained by the merits of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin and the Saints, who intercede for us as participants in the same vital organism, which is the mystical Body of Christ.

The spirit with which to receive the gift of the Indulgence requires that at the passage of the Holy Door there be sacramental confession and participation in Holy Mass, the testimony of membership in the Church, manifested by the recitation of the Creed, combined with prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father, and the exercise of acts of charity and penance.

The **Pontifical Shrine** of the Holy House is **the only Jubilee church** to receive the Plenary Indulgence. However, in order to give pastoral support to the **chapels** of civil airports and of the Air Force, the possibility of receiving the gift of the Plenary Indulgence in these places is extended, if the local Ordinary requests it from the Pontifical Delegation of Loreto. The faithful will thus be able to benefit from the Indulgence under the conditions laid down, reciting before the image of Our Lady the usual prayers and invocations to the Blessed Virgin, especially the Litany of Loreto or

the Jubilee Prayer (Cf. Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, No. 271/19/1).

The sick and all those who are unable to leave their homes, *joining spiritually with those who make the pious visit, can obtain the Plenary Indulgence provided that, completely detached from sin and with the intention of complying as soon as possible with the three usual conditions* (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father) *in the presence of an image of Our Lady recite prayers to God for the spread of the Faith, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially the Litany of Loreto or the Jubilee Prayer, humbly offering to the merciful God, through Mary, the pains and hardships of their lives.* (Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, No. 271/19/1).

Charity

The Jubilee Year is an opportune time for concrete acts of charity and faith at the service of the poor and most in need. Among the various initiatives of solidarity, I am happy to present two: one, so to speak, "at home", local, and the other in the Land of Jesus.

The local one concerns the **welcoming of the young people**, who will come to Loreto, stopping at the John Paul II Centre, where they will be welcomed, accompanied and helped to understand the meaning of their lives. Pope Francis wanted to relaunch the John Paul II Centre as an implementation of the exhortation *Christus vivit*.

The second initiative of solidarity is **for Nazareth**, where there is the other half of the House of Mary: it is to provide specialist equipment for neonatology of the **hospital "Holy Family" of Nazareth**, and to help the Miriam Association of Nazareth, engaged in the fight against cancer.

Marian Prayer

The Jubilee of Loreto is deeply connected to the Holy House in which the mystery of the Incarnation was accomplished and the Holy Family

lived. The reference to the Virgin Mother is therefore necessary to the profession of faith in God Made Man for our salvation. Among the practices of Marian prayer, I would like to mention some in particular:

The *Magnificat*

The canticle of the *Magnificat* expresses par excellence the song of *jubilation*, of joy for rediscovered salvation. In communion with Mary, exulting in the divine mercy which *extends from generation to generation*, we sing in this Jubilee the joy of having in Jesus our only and necessary Saviour.

The Canticle of the Virgin will be therefore **sung in all the Jubilee Masses** celebrated in the Shrine.

The *Angelus Domini* [Angelus]

The Jubilee is an opportunity to take up and promote the prayer of the Angel of the Lord who makes us contemplate the Word made flesh, the greeting to the Virgin and the recourse to her merciful intercession. This prayer, which for centuries has marked the rhythm of life of Christians, is the prayer of the Sanctuary of Loreto, which houses the Holy House of Nazareth as a mystical space where the Mystery of our Redemption began.

In the Shrine the prayer *Angelus Domini* is recited **three times a day**: morning, midday and evening.

The *Rosary*

The Rosary helps us to contemplate the main events in the life of Jesus and to rejoice in the presence of Mary in our midst. In the decades of this crown our hearts can encompass all the facts that involve our personal lives, those of our families, nations, the Church and humanity. It would really be a great blessing for our Christian families to take up the recitation of the Rosary again, at least in some particular circumstances (birthdays, anniversaries, the month of May, Marian feasts...). The crown of the Rosary thus becomes the chain for the transmission of faith between the different generations.

In the Shrine **the Rosary** is prayed: **every day** at 5:30pm (standard time) or 6:00pm (during Daylight Saving) and **every Saturday** at 9pm with **torch-light procession**.

The Litany of Loreto

The Litany of Loreto, spread throughout the world by the Shrine of the Holy House, represents the plea of children addressed to the Virgin Mother. The people of God invoke her with various titles to revive the certainty that we are accompanied by her to sail the skies of holiness and to aim high towards the eternal joy of Paradise.

The Jubilee Prayer

In the Jubilee prayer, the Holy Father offers us an invocation to God through the intercession of the Virgin Patroness of those travelling by air, together with whom we ask for the gift of holiness, peace and harmony among peoples.

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I trust in the collaboration of all so that this time of grace may be a great opportunity **to rise together towards Christ**, without whom it is illusory to dream of a society that is more just, more fraternal and in solidarity.

Let us start again from the Holy House, animated by the hope that God is with us and gives us new strength, renews us, sanctifies us, while Mary accompanies us and supports us in our commitment and in our collaboration.

In the words of the Apostle Jude Thaddeus, I would like to say to you: *But you, my beloved, building yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto life everlasting. And some indeed reprove, being judged: but others save, pulling them out of the fire* (Jude 20-23).

Loreto, 11 November 2019

✠ Fabio
Archbishop