

# LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Please join me in living the **Jubilee Year** called by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The Jubilee Year is an opportunity for every Catholic in our Diocese to make real our call to be **Pilgrims of Hope** in Northern California.

Jesus, the Bread of Life, nourishes and anchors us in hope on our journey to share in the wedding feast of heaven, so that our faith may be joyful and our charity enthusiastic. As missionaries of hope, we are called to be credible witnesses of our faith in our marriages, family life and in our communities. The Holy Father calls us to “fan the flame of hope that has been given us” by celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope so that we can restore a “climate of hope and trust” that will lead to the “renewal and rebirth we so urgently desire”.

**The Jubilee Year starts on December 24, 2024** with the opening of the Holy Door in Rome. In our Diocese, we will celebrate a special Vigil mass to proclaim the **Jubilee Year at the Cathedral on Saturday, December 28, 2024** (The Feast of the Holy Family). The Holy Doors in Rome will close on **December 28, 2025** and the Jubilee will formally conclude in Rome on **January 6, 2026** (The Solemnity of Epiphany).

This guide and its accompanying website contains everything you need to celebrate this favored time in the life of the Church. Please spend some time reading it. Talk with your family about taking time in the coming year for pilgrimage and practice. Let me highlight two things:

First, I have designated **12 Pilgrimage Sites for the Jubilee Year**. I have also designated three themes for the Jubilee year. I encourage you and your family to visit these sites and reflect and pray together. Partial and plenary indulgences can be earned for pilgrimage and/or practice. See the map for all the details.

Secondly, the **24 Hours for the Lord** will be celebrated throughout the Diocese starting at **Noon on Friday, March 28, 2025** until **Noon on Saturday, March 29, 2025**. Every deanery in the Diocese will be offering 24 hours of continuous confessions. All Catholics are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time and throughout the Jubilee Year.

Let’s pray for each other as we embark on this pilgrimage of hope together with the Holy Father and the whole Church. May the intercession of Mary, the Mother of mercy, draw us ever closer to the Sacred Heart of her Son, Jesus.

+Jaime Soto  
Bishop of Sacramento