



YEAR OF HOPE



Jan 2025



BE A PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN 2025

FR. JOSEPH TAN LEITAO

1. Begins with Jubilee Reflection on 2025

Dear brothers and sisters of St. Joseph's Church, 2025 has begun. Let us reflect on the Jubilee year named as: Pilgrims of Hope (Giubileo ordinario) by the Pope on May 9, 2024, on the Solemnity of the Ascension. This name is according to "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5). Let us lead our life by this spirit in 2025.

The Pope prayed at the beginning of his Jubilee Bull: "May the Jubilee be an opportunity for everyone to rekindle hope." Therefore, the Jubilee Year opens with the scope of preaching the Gospel to the whole world: its target is not only Catholic, but also goes beyond the scope of the Church. Everyone experiences joy and pain, trials and difficulties in life. For many of us, when we face with pain, our hope collapses again and again. Therefore, this Jubilee is timely to everyone.

To use St. Paul's words to illustrate the spirit of the Jubilee: "We even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope. (Romans 5:3-4)." The "patience" combined with hope here means to persevere in trials, not to lose heart and despair, and to persevere. This is the source and condition of the power of hope.

Under the interaction of "hope" and "patience" in our lives, the life of a Christian is like "a journey" and at the same time a pilgrimage, "a journey to find the meaning of life." To take this journey requires "an encounter with our Lord Jesus." Hope generates the source of power and as a relay station.

2. Reflect on the failures and successes of the past 2024

Dear brothers and sisters of St. Joseph's Church, the beginning of a new year is also the season for the seeds of hope to germinate. First of all, we should "look back on last year's failures and successes and express our gratitude to God!"

In the past year, we have experienced many failures due to our own weaknesses, the hardships of the world, and the difficulties from others. Laurel writer Mo Yan once said: "My young friends, when we encounter difficult times, don't be discouraged or depressed. As long as we work hard, there will always be fruitful results. Hope, many a times, is generated when we are disappointed or even desperate. Hope also calls us to start again. Pick up courage and move forward bravely. A person can be defeated by life, but not put down by it."

The result of failure is: money gone, but we can make it back ; job gone, we can find a new one; friends gone, we can make new friends; love gone, we can find a new love one; you were born with nothing, so why are you afraid of starting all over again? A person's strength does not lie in what he conquers, but in what he endures.

In the past year, God's blessing combined with our hard work, we have elevated ourselves in many aspects, and many things have ended successfully. However, whether it is success or failure, it has become a valuable asset on our way of growth. Success teaches us to cherish, failure teaches us to be strong. Even if there are regrets, it is these regrets that make us more clear about the future direction. Therefore, we need to be grateful for the past year. We are grateful to those who accompany us and support us. And we are also grateful for the challenges and difficulties. It is them who make us stronger and appreciate everything of the present.

Continue.....

3. Have high expectations for 2025 and make feasible plans

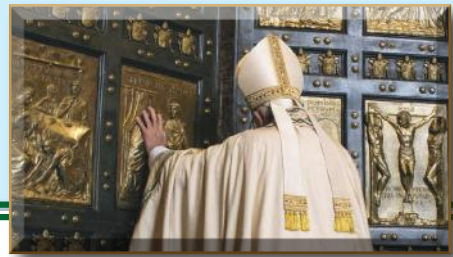
A new year gives rise to new hopes, new opportunities and new challenges. Each of us has our own goals and dreams in our hearts. Every goal is a gift we give to our future selves. The future is unknown, but that's why it's so exciting. We cannot control the passage of time, but we can control the direction in which we head for. As long as we strengthen our faith in God and keep our feet on the ground, the other side of our dreams will eventually get closer and closer to us.

A new beginning starts from now. The first day of the new year is the best time to take action. No matter how ambitious your goals are, they need to start with minute details. Make a plan, write down specific goals, and break them down into small tasks that can be accomplished each day. Use positive actions to meet every day's challenges. Even if the progress is small, it will bring about huge changes over time. Change does not happen overnight, but is a cumulative process. As a saying goes: "The best time to plant a tree was ten years ago, the second best time is to plant one now."

4. End

In the new year, may we all live up to the time and ourselves! In celebrating the Jubilee, the Pope wants us to reflect on the goals we hope for this year. Hope is "founded on faith and nourished by charity." These three divine virtues (faith, hope and love) illustrate the essence of Christian life. Let us find "in the Mother of God the most remarkable witness of hope. In her we see that hope is not foolish optimism, but the grace of real life". Just as the Blessed Mother heard Simeon's prophecy: "you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:35), and she was present at the foot of the cross: "In the agony of sacrifice for love, In this way, Mary became our mother—the mother of hope."

Likewise, when the Virgin first appeared in Mexico City in 1531 to Juan Diego, a young man who was one of the first Aztec converts to Christianity, give a message of hope. This message is still repeated to all pilgrims today: "Am I not here, your mother?"



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus



JESUS, KING OF THE UNIVERSE!



Solemnity of Christ the King Celebration

In the liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, commonly referred to as the Feast of Christ the King, emphasizes the true kingship of Jesus Christ.

Despite unfavorable weather on November 24, 2024, St. Joseph's Church continued to hold and celebrate the feast, hosted by the Apostleship of Prayer Community. Activities began with a holy rosary in front of a makeshift altar in the covered carpark, with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a procession and benediction inside the church.

Celebrating Christ the King, we reflect on the lessons and messages brought by this feast. First and foremost, we need to surrender our lives to Christ's rule. Since Christ the King lives in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, we must learn to live in His holy presence. By doing His will and sharing His forgiving love with others, we allow Jesus to reign in every corner of our lives.

This feast takes place on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, emphasizing that people, angels, the whole universe and time aim and belong to Him. It also precedes Advent—a season of waiting for the Birth of Jesus – that Christians from all backgrounds celebrate with reflections on hope, peace, love, and joy. The significance of Christ the King in relation to Advent is that while the Solemnity of Christ the King celebrates “Big Jesus,” Advent season helps us to prepare for His coming both as the King at the end of the world and as “Baby Jesus” as well.

We express our gratitude to our beloved St. Joseph, priests who dedicated their time to this celebration: Rev. Fr. Joseph Tan, SVD; Rev. Fr. Paul Chen, SVD; and Rev. Fr. Jerry Perocho, SVD. Thank you also to all the participating communities of St. Joseph's Church; your unwavering support is greatly appreciated. May God bless us all!

By: Rovelyn Roncal
(Apostleship of Prayer)

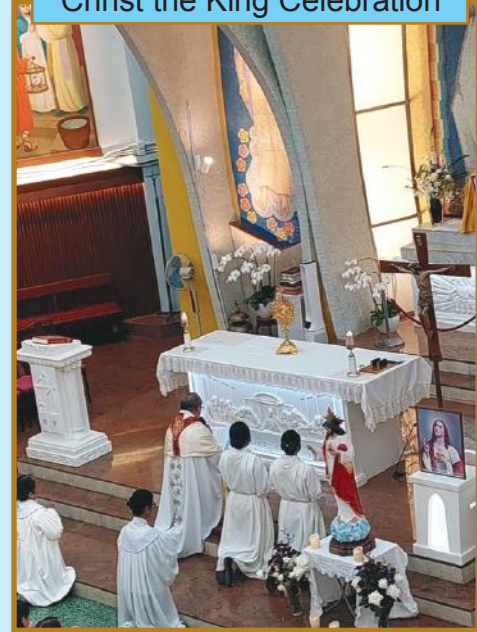
Hope and Preparation

Volunteers at Caritas Charity Bazaar



On November 3, 2024, the annual Hong Kong Caritas Charity Bazaar was held in Causeway Bay. This event is a fundraising activity organized by Caritas Hong Kong to support those in need. Thank you to all the volunteers from the Filipino Catholic Group for participating and supporting the event.

Solemnity of Christ the King Celebration



On November 24, 2024, we will celebrate Christ the King, marking the end of the liturgical year and reminding us that the season of Advent is approaching.

The season of Advent is a time for hope and preparation for His coming. We must understand in our hearts that there is a reason and purpose for everything that happens, no matter how dire the situation may seem. We need to hold onto the truth that God is sovereign and has authority over all things. He has absolute power over everything, including our lives. Life will have storms, and no one is exempt. Whether we are believers or not, God never promised us a storm-free life. But He does promise us a storm-proof life. He is in total control, and we need to rest in that knowledge as we wait for His perfect and good will to unfold in our lives.

Just like the Advent season, we are patiently waiting and preparing for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth on Christmas Day. Christ is the reason for this season.

May this coming season be a blessing to all, and may our life journey continue to be filled with blessings. The more eagerness and courage we have to invest our gifts and talents in serving others and Him, the more we will receive God's blessings. May we choose to continue being His servants amidst all hindrances. Thank you, and may the Almighty God be with us always.

Article written by: Irmalyn Alvarez Ecol (Filipino Catholic Group)

FCG Choir at Christ the King Celebration



Embracing the Gift of Life and Welcoming Celebrations

Life is a precious and extraordinary gift bestowed upon us. It is a journey filled with joy, challenges, triumphs, and lessons. In the midst of our daily routines and responsibilities, it is essential to take a moment to celebrate the beauty and blessings of life.

Once again, on November 3, 2024, we gather to celebrate the special day for our beloved Fr. Paul, SVD, St. Joseph's Assistant Parish Priest. The St. Joseph community will come together to wish Father a wonderful life ahead, recognizing that every day is a divine gift from the Lord. To our dear Fr. Paul, may God grant you the power, courage, knowledge, and wisdom to continue to propagate His words to mankind. Thank you for your love and guidance for all of us! We love you! We also have a back-to-back celebration as we welcome our newly appointed Assistant Parish Priest, our very own Filipino priest, Rev. Fr. Jerry Perocho, SVD, who will begin his office on October 1, 2024.

To Fr. Jerry, we gladly welcome you, and we are so happy to have you here at St. Joseph Church. We're confident you will thrive in this community and bring great things for all of us! Welcome to the family, Rev. Fr. Jerry M. Perocho, SVD! Feel comfortable and at home.

On behalf of the Apostleship of Prayer, your host community, we thank each and every one of you for your great kindness and support on that day. God bless us all!

By: Ma. Fe Cabangal (Apostleship of Prayer)



Bridging Hearts



As the New Year dawns, I find myself reflecting on my journey as a Filipino migrant worker in Hong Kong. The past year has been filled with challenges and triumphs, and as I step into this new chapter, I feel a sense of hope and purpose.

Change can be intimidating. When I first arrived in Hong Kong, everything felt foreign—the language, culture, and rhythm of life. I remember feeling overwhelmed, but over time, I learned to embrace change as an opportunity for growth. This year, I am excited to embark on a new journey as a pianist at Saint Alfred Church, teach piano to a novice in the convent,

and continue my role as chief editor of our parish newsletter at Saint Joseph's. Balancing these responsibilities may be challenging, but it's an incredible opportunity to share my passion for music and contribute to our community in different ways.

One aspect of this change that resonates deeply with me is the power of kindness. I recall a day when I was particularly homesick. A fellow worker noticed my sadness and offered words of encouragement, reminding me that I am not alone in this journey. That simple act of kindness lifted my spirits and inspired me to extend similar gestures to others. This year, I want to uplift those around me, whether through music at Saint Alfred or the stories I share in the newsletter.

In moments of doubt, I turn to Scripture for comfort and guidance. Psalm 27:1 resonates with me: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?" This verse reminds me that with faith, I can face any challenge that comes my way. Hope isn't just a wish; it's a force that encourages us to seek light even in the darkest moments.

As we enter this Jubilee Year, I am inspired to reflect on themes of forgiveness and renewal. It's a time to mend broken relationships and extend grace to those around us. The friendships I've built here are vital for our collective support. By fostering unity and understanding, we can create a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued.

This New Year, I invite you to join me in embracing hope in action. Let's take small steps toward kindness, inspire one another, and face challenges with courage. Together, we can create a community that uplifts and supports each other, making a meaningful difference in our lives and those around us.

As we embark on this journey, let's hold onto hope, love, and the willingness to change. Here's to a New Year filled with possibilities!

Article written by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Filipino Prayer Group)

Hope in Action: Embracing Change and Kindness in the New Year



The world around us is constantly changing, and that is a fact of life. Many things happen to people every day. Our world is unpredictable, and yet we must embrace it. We need to maintain a positive mindset and welcome the changes that come our way. By keeping our future in mind and persistently pursuing the actions that lead us toward our goals, we can

make progress.

Remember to focus on your goals and tackle important tasks today instead of postponing them for tomorrow. Concentrate on your future, not your past. Learn from past mistakes, but do not dwell on them. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Spot the good in every situation, and you will receive positivity in return. Focus on your strengths and learn from everything that happens. Embrace the changes around you. We must be willing to adapt and learn from changing social and economic trends. Success is an adventure, a journey rather than a destination. Change is a process. If we only cope with the inevitable challenges that interrupt our goals and expectations, we will live a life of mediocrity, like all the naysayers we encounter.

HOLY FATHER, GRANT US PEACE

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do I give to you.

Do not let your heart be troubled.....

John 14:27

GOD DWELLS IN US



I know someone—a friend. He is with us through every season of life. You cannot touch or embrace Him physically like we do with others, but deep within, you know He is always with you.

He listens to all our life's burdens—whether joyful or sorrowful. Whether you express it in words or not, He knows everything within your heart. He knows the past, the present, and the future. Nothing is hidden from Him, for everything belongs to Him. He is trustworthy at all times. In Him, my heart finds peace, for He listens with love and compassion. He does not judge you based on the mistakes you've made. Instead, He helps you correct them and move forward.

In moments of fear, I call upon His name, and He immediately comes to my aid. "I am here beside you; DO NOT BE AFRAID." He has cared for me since the moment He created me.

Oh, who is like Him? No one! For He is unique, and there is no one like Him. From Him comes all goodness and true love. He has planted something within me—a treasure I always return to. It is a gift I will never forget: words that give life and strength to face this uncertain world: "I LOVE YOU with an EVERLASTING LOVE, and I DESIRE TO BE WITH YOU FOR ETERNITY." His counsel to me is this: "Abide in my words and live in the grace I have given you."

The only thing I truly fear in this life is losing His love. Yet, I do not rely on my own abilities, for I know I am nothing without Him. I will not let fear rule my life. Instead, I will TRUST COMPLETELY in the help that comes from His goodness and mercy until the time He has appointed for us to be together in His paradise.

Discover your heart, for He dwells in the depths of our soul. I love you all!

Article written by: Janice Bustamante (SOWERS)

「導賞」有話說呢! (二)



聖若瑟堂導賞團

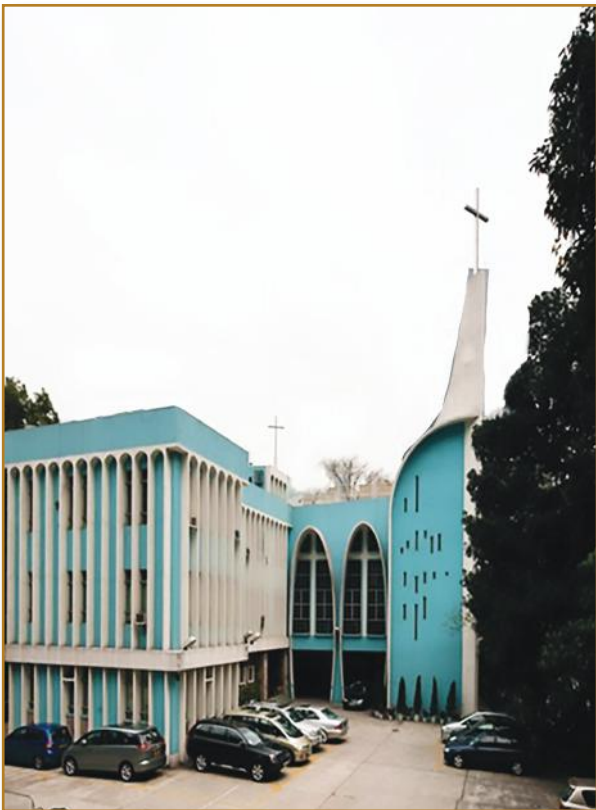
此logo，是一位設計師給我們設計 ----- 它是一座「燈塔」。聖若瑟堂外型似艘船。聖堂主樓有二座尖塔，尖塔上有十字架，它們分別面對著花園道以及紅棉路。從遠望，聖若瑟堂好像航行在陸地的船。

天主好比海上的燈塔，無論晝、夜，船隻依靠它的引航及帶領。茫茫大海上，船隻航行時，燈塔可作引領船隻前行的作用，安全到達目的地。

天主引導我們導賞員，在聖堂內向朝聖者指示出方向，一步一步講解。透過講解，參加者除了對聖堂歷史、聖堂的建築、聖人，前人的建樹、認知多了之外，也作信仰反省。聖若瑟堂外牆是藍色，固導賞logo也用了與聖若瑟堂外牆同一藍色。

我們常以「耶穌平息風浪的奇蹟」（谷4:35-41）向朝聖者介紹。大風浪令門徒們很驚慌，耶穌在船上睡覺（谷4:38），是要表示無問題，毋須驚慌。「小船」象徵「教會」，外面的風風雨雨，利慾薰心的社會氣氛，「教會」象徵「保護」，只要信友們能堅持信德，一切寄託在天主手中，祂自會照料。

導賞組





Baptism / Confirmation:

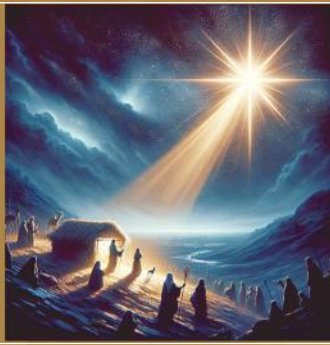
December 14 Yoshioka Hitomi Chloe
Tsui Lap Yan Teo
C. De Vera Eliana
Lo Shu Ling Millie

December 26 Cayabyab, Ralph Adriane Leyso



Marriage / Convalidation:

December 14 Estephen M. De Vera & Cheung Lai Ching
December 30 Chan Pak Shu & Chen Yini



BIBLE VERSES

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. (Mt 2:10)

聖經金句

瑪2:10 「他們一見到那星，極其高興歡喜。」

給亡者的信

堂區每月首週二晚八點舉行英語追思彌撒，出席者可把已故親友的相片放在祭台上。自年中起，堂區歡迎教友提交寫給已故親友的信，讓讀經員在彌撒中讀出，表達對亡者的思念和美好回憶。信件必須是英文及500字內，可附上一張亡者的照片

(.jpg格式，3.5MB內)。堂區辦公室有最終決定權。

投稿者可以電郵給

office2.stjosephs.hk@gmail.com

(註明Letter for Monthly Memorial Mass)。



歡迎堂區教友投稿

- 1) 2月主題：希望與重生為此聖灰星期三
- 2) 字數：不超 650字
- 3) 格式：Word file
- 4) 相片：若文章附相片，上限3張，必須屬於作者的相片(JPG), 上限 3.5MB。
- 5) 截止日期：1/09/2025
- 6) 郵寄地址：請把文章註明「2月投稿」郵寄到 stjosephs.hk@gmail.com
- 7) 通訊組保留任何修改及刊登權利

Writers
Wanted

**Parishioners are welcome to submit articles for the church newsletter.
Please take note of the following guidelines:**

- 1) Theme for Feb: **A Journey of Hope and Renewal This Ash Wednesday**
- 2) Word limit: Not more than 650 words
- 3) Form: Word file
- 4) Photo: 1-3 pictures only, with a maximum size of 3.5MB
- 5) Deadline **Jan, 09, 2025**
- 6) Email: Please submit the article to stjosephs.hk@gmail.com with the subject line 'Article for February 2025.'
- 7) All rights are reserved by the church, including the selection of articles, photos, and any necessary adjustments.

In Loving Memory

Funeral / Memorial Mass:

December 16 Way Ka Chai John

December 20 Leung Kar Mun

December 21 Yip Sau Hing Teresa

December 27 Chan Sui Ping Winnie

December 30 Wu Yu Cheng Anna

January 04 Roger Ng Ka Keung

神師勉語



在2025年做希望的朝聖者

談雷濤 SVD



1. 反省禧年開始2025年

各位聖若瑟堂的弟兄姊妹，2025年開始了。讓我們反省教宗2024年5月9日在耶穌升天節當天，根據“望德不叫人蒙羞”（羅5:5）而命名的禧年：希望的朝聖者（Giubileo ordinario），來作為2025年生活的方向和精神。

教宗方在禧年詔書的開始便祈祝：“愿禧年为每个人都是重燃希望的机会”。所以，禧年是在向普世众人宣讲福音的幅度下开启的：它的對象不僅僅是天主教教友，更超越了教會的範圍。因為，每個人的人生，都會經歷喜樂和痛苦，考驗與艱難。而很多人，在面對痛苦時，希望就會一次次地崩潰。故此，此時此刻的所有人，都需要這個禧年！

用保祿的話來闡述禧年精神就是：“我们连在磨难中也欢跃，因为我们知道磨难生忍耐，忍耐生老练，老练生望德（羅5:3-4）”。此處結合于望德的“忍耐”意即在考驗中堅忍，不灰心失望，恒心堅持。這就是希望的力量所產生的根源和條件。在我們每個人生活中的“希望”和“忍耐”交互作用下，基督徒的一生猶如“一段旅程”，同時也是個朝聖之旅，“是尋找人生意義的旅程”。走這條旅途，需要“與我們的主耶穌相遇”。這個希望的力量產生的根源和中繼站。

2. 反省過去2024年的失敗和成功

各位聖若瑟堂的弟兄姊妹，新一年的開始，也是希望的種子萌芽的季節，首先，我們應該“回首去年的失敗和成功，向天主表達感激！”

在過去的一年里，因為我們個人的軟弱、世事的磨難，和他人的刁難，使我們經歷了許多失敗。莫言老師說過：“年輕的朋友們，當我們遇到艱難時刻，不要灰心，不要沮喪，只要努力，總是會有收獲。希望總是在失望甚至是絕望時產生的，並召喚著我們重振旗鼓，奮勇前進。一個人可以被生活打敗，但是不能被牠打倒。”

可能失敗的結果是：錢沒了，但是我們可以再賺；工作沒了，可以重新找；朋友沒了，可以再結交；愛情沒了，可以再尋找；你生來一無所有，又何懼從頭再來呢？一個人的強大，並不在於他征服了什麼，而在於他承受些什麼。

在過去的一年里，因為天主的降福，和我們努力奮鬥相結合。使我們在很多方面更進一步，很多事情都已經以成功結尾。但是，無論是成功還是失敗，都成了我們成長路上的寶貴財富。成功教會我們珍惜，失敗教會我們堅強。即使有遺憾，但正是這些遺憾讓我們更加明確了未來的方向。所以，我們需要感恩過去的一年。感恩那些陪伴我們的人、支持我們的人，也感恩那些挑戰和困難。是它們，讓我們變得更加強大，讓我們更懂得珍惜眼前的一切。

3. 對2025年满怀期待，並訂立可實行的計劃

新的一年，意味著新的希望、新的機遇和新的挑戰。我們每個人都心中埋下了屬於自己的目標與夢想。每一個目標，都是我們給未來的自己送上的一份禮物。未來是未知的，但正因如此，才讓人充滿期待。我們無法左右時間的流逝，但可以掌控自己前行的方向。只要堅定信念，腳踏實地，夢想的彼岸終會離我們越來越近。

新的開始，從當下出發。新年的第一天，是最適合行動的時刻。無論目標多么宏大，都需要從最小的細節開始。列一份計劃，寫下具體的目標，將它們細化為每天可以完成的小任務。用積極的行動迎接每一天的挑戰，即使進步微小，日積月累也會帶來巨大的改變。改變並非一蹴而就，而是一個累積的過程。正如一句話所說：“種一棵樹最好的時間是十年前，其次是現在。”

4. 結尾

新的一年，愿我們都能不負時光，不負自己！教宗在禧年慶祝中，希望我們反省我們這一年希望的目標。希望乃“建立在信德的基礎上并由愛德來滋養”。這三個屬神的德行（信望愛三德），闡明了基督信仰生活的本質。

讓我們在“天主之母內找到最卓越的希望的見證。在她身上我們看到，希望不是昏愚的樂觀，而是現實生命中的寵恩”。就如聖母聽到西默盎的預言：“有一把利劍將刺透她的心靈”（路2:34-35），以及她將臨在十字架下：“在那為了愛而奉獻的痛苦哀傷中，瑪利亞就此成為了我們的母親——希望的母親”。

同樣，就如在1531年，童貞聖母在墨西哥城第一次顯現給最初一批皈依基督信仰的阿茲特克人（aztechi）之一的年輕人璜·迪耶哥（Juan Diego）時，就給以希望的訊息。這個訊息今日仍不斷給所有的朝聖者重復：“難道我，你的母親，不就在這裡嗎？”

在2025年做希望的朝聖者