



# Infobox



## Jubilee Year: *Pilgrims of Hope*

On December 29, 2024, in our Cathedral filled with the faithful from the City of Timmins and the clergy, as in all the Dioceses around the world, at the request of our Holy Father Pope Francis, we began the Holy Year 2025, whose theme is "*Pilgrims of Hope*".

- 1- Every faithful can make a pilgrimage to holy places: to Rome, Holy Land, to our national shrines, or in our Diocese to the Cathedral of St. Anthony of Padua and the Sainte-Croix Church in Haileybury. There is venerated Christ on the Cross; and everyone can receive a plenary indulgence for oneself or for the deceased under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the Pope's intentions, works of mercy).
- 2- This pilgrimage is not religious tourism: it's a journey of conversion, of renewed attention and greater love for the Lord, through a more intense Christian life.
- 3- In his letter *Spes non Confundit* (*Hope does not deceive*) of May 9, 2024, with which he established this Holy Year, the Pope invites us to become witnesses of Christian hope in a world struggling with war (n. 8), to prisoners (n. 10), to the sick (n. 11), to young people seeking meaning in life (n. 12), to migrants (n. 13), to the elderly suffering loneliness and abandonment (n. 14), to the poor lacking the necessities of life (n. 15), to countries overwhelmed by debt (n. 16).
- 4- The Holy Father insists on a too-often forgotten yet fundamental element of the Catholic Faith: **the hope of eternal life** (n. 19-22). The Creed ("*I believe in God*") ends with this essential affirmation. We cannot restrict ourselves to living in this material world of which we are a part; we are made for God and we need to open a window to breathe the pure air that comes from God.
- 5- I invite you to take advantage of this Holy Year to walk in the hope of living eternally with God.
- 6- To this end, I suggest that you take up my Lenten pastoral letter **2020 Die with Christ and live eternally in Him**. I published it just as the Covid 19 epidemic was beginning, with its accompanying restriction measures. As such, I don't think many of the faithful have read it.

- 7- In this Letter presented with the *Infifax* N. 67 of February 21, 2020, I invite us to look lucidly at the death that affects every human being (n. 1-10); I then meditate on the one that Christ wanted to know before reaching the resurrection (n. 11-26). Then I recall the Christian message on eternal life (n. 27-34), stressing the need for personal preparation for death and entering eternity (n. 35-42), inviting us to accompany our sick and dying brothers and sisters (n. 43-47) and, finally, by proposing Christian attitudes towards the deceased (n. 48-60).
- 8- God offers us eternal life: whether we accept or reject it is up to us. We can be witnesses and instruments of this hope for our brothers and sisters in humanity.
- 9- Let us be inspired by the words of Saint Paul: *“If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all”* (I Cor 15:19). *“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil 3:13-14).

With my blessing.



✠ Serge Poitras  
Bishop of Timmins

February 6, 2025

Liturgical memorial of Saint Paul Miki and his companions, Japanese Martyrs.