

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

Tuesday 23 January 2024, at 11.30 am in the Press Office of the Holy See, a press conference will be held to present the Year of Prayer and the 'Notes on Prayer' series. The Year of Prayer will be dedicated to rediscovering, as Pope Francis underlined, "the great value and absolute need of prayer, in personal life, in the life of the Church, and prayer in the world", in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee.

The year will conclude, in December 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door marking the beginning of the Holy Year. The Holy Father officially opened the Year of Prayer during the Angelus on January 21, saying: "I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live this event of grace well and experience the strength of God's hope."

The year that has just begun, 2024, will be marked as a Year of Prayer, it was officially inaugurated last Sunday by Pope Francis at the Angelus. It is "a special Year in preparation for the Jubilee, during which the *spiritual* horizon of the Jubilee must emerge more clearly, an element which goes far beyond the necessary and urgent issues of structure and organization. As the Pope underlined in the *Te Deum* liturgy at the end of last year: 'The Christian, like Mary, is a pilgrim of hope'. And this will be the theme of the 2025 Jubilee: Pilgrims of hope", said Archbishop Fisichella.

As the Pro-Prefect was keen to underline: "This is not a Year with specific initiatives, rather, it should be seen as a privileged moment in which to rediscover the value of prayer, the need for daily prayer in Christian life; how to pray, and above all how to educate people to pray today, in the age of digital culture, so that prayer can be effective and fruitful." To respond to this need, the Dicastery has prepared some materials that can accompany meditation and reading to better understand the value of prayer.

First, the 38 catechetical talks that Pope Francis gave from 6 May 2020 to 16 June 2021, which focus on various moments of prayer. In addition, as Mgr. Bell stated: "The Vatican Publishing House is publishing, starting today, a series of short booklets that delve into the various dimensions of the Christian act of praying, written by authors of international fame, and coordinated by this Dicastery. The first booklet '*Prayer Today. A challenge*' with a preface by Pope Francis, is penned by Cardinal Angelo Comastri, former Vicar General of Vatican City and Archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica. The text, available in bookstores from January 23, offers reminders on the need for prayer and advice on how to have "a different approach and a different heart" highlighting figures who have testified to the fruitfulness of prayer such as Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saint Francis of Assisi and Mother Teresa of Calcutta."

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