

TILMA

**Year One of a
Seven-Year Pastoral Plan
2025**



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

TILMA

Testifica, Oh Iglesia, a la Luz del Misterio del Amor
Testify, O Church, to the Light of the Mystery of Love

A Seven-Year Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of Phoenix

YEAR ONE

2025

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

1. INTRODUCTION

This Pastoral Plan is intended to provide direction for the Diocese of Phoenix and all its parishes and schools, Catholic affiliates, the Diocesan Pastoral Center, and people of God toward establishing a comprehensive and sustainable culture of evangelization through the lens of our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of our Diocese and of the Americas.

Inspired by Our Lady of Guadalupe, this seven-year pastoral plan on Evangelization will begin in January 2025 and lead up to December 2031 - the 500th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions on Tepeyac hill.

By way of introduction, this seven-year plan will follow the theme, *TESTIFICA, OH IGLESIA, A LA LUZ DEL MISTERIO DEL AMOR* (TILMA) - Testify, o Church, to the Light of the Mystery of Love as outlined in [Bishop John Dolan's Pastoral Letter \(TILMA, 10/7/2024\)](#).

To effectively create a culture of evangelization, each year leading up to the 2031 celebration will include a theme for us to follow; most are based on the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry entitled "*Missionary Disciples Going Forth With Joy*."

This pastoral plan is aimed toward using the mentioned resources as a guide to reflect more deeply on the immense blessing and witness of the Hispanic/Latino community in the Church; to learn from the richness of their deep devotions, traditions, and sense of missionary discipleship; to expand our vision of evangelization in the modern world; and, guided by Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is an example of "a perfectly enculturated evangelization" (Pope St. John Paul II, *Ecclesia in America*, 11), to foster opportunities of deeper cultural encounter and integration within the life of the Church.

2. SEVEN-YEAR OUTLINE

Each of the seven years will include a set of themes and one of seven theological virtues for further reference and reflection. The themes for each year promote a culture of effective and sustainable evangelization through the lens of Our Lady of Guadalupe's maternal accompaniment while the virtues promote a personal and habitual way of becoming more like her Son, Our Lord and God. In brief, the following years with their themes and virtues are outlined here:

Year One, 2025 – Year of Hope

Based on:

2025 Jubilee of Hope – Pope Francis' Papal Bull, (*Spes Non Confundit*. 5/9/2024):

“Through Juan Diego, the Mother of God brought a revolutionary message of hope that she continues to bring to every pilgrim and all the faithful: ‘Am I not here, who am your Mother?’” (*Spes*, 24)

Themes:

- Evangelizing through Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of all.
- Evangelizing through the 10 hopes as laid out in *Spes Non Confundit*.

Theological Virtue: Hope (optimism and confidence in God)

Year Two, 2026 – El Camino Real

Based on:

- a. Our Lady's First Apparition to San Juan Diego who is on his way to catechism class and receives a message to tell the bishop to build a house of worship.
- b. USCCB Pastoral Vision Guideline for Hispanic/Latino Ministry: “A community of **missionary** disciples, nourished and transformed by the Eucharist, that is sent forth to joyfully proclaim the Good News of the Gospel and bear fruit in every human situation” (*Missionary Disciples*, p. 9).

Themes:

- People want to know the way, and it is Christ the Way they are seeking.
- Evangelization can take place anywhere, through any means, and in every encounter. For Juan Diego, evangelization is happening even on the way to catechism class. Evangelization does not end with a personal (ONLY) encounter with the Lord, but from there we are sent forth (On the Way/El Camino Real) to bring the Good News of Christ to others.

Theological Virtue: Faith (belief and trust in Christ, The Way to eternal life)

Year Three, 2027 – Animated by Christ

Based on:

- a. Our Lady’s Second Apparition to San Juan Diego: Juan Diego visited the bishop who did not respond well to the message of the apparition. Juan Diego is discouraged. Our Lady tells him to try again. Renewed, he agrees to visit the bishop a second time.
- b. USCCB Pastoral Vision Guideline for Hispanic/Latino Ministry: “A prophetic Church, animated and formed by the Word, that is a promoter and an example of justice and mercy” (*Missionary Disciples*, p.10)

Themes:

- We are called to move beyond the simpler way of evangelization – e.g., thinking that baptizing our children and sending them to catechism classes is enough. When we look back to the first disciples, evangelization was going forth beyond our families to the peripheries.
- While animated to be effective evangelizers, we are called to show temperance with those we encounter – e.g., On the road to Emmaus, Jesus practiced a level of restraint, meeting the travelers exactly where they were and walking with them. It was through this encounter that the disciples were renewed in their belief (cf. Luke 24:13-35).

Cardinal Virtue: Temperance (self-control and moderation)

Year Four, 2028 – That All May Be One

Based on:

- a. Our Lady’s Third Apparition to San Juan Diego: Juan Diego visits the bishop again and is interrogated. The bishop says only a sign will convince him of Our Lady’s command. Juan Diego goes to Our Lady who promises that she will give Juan the sign the next day and that he will be rewarded for his efforts.
- b. USCCB Pastoral Vision Guideline for Hispanic/Latino Ministry: “A pastoral model of encounter with Christ, accompaniment, and reaching out” (*Missionary Disciples*, p.12).

Themes:

- We cling to the promise that, despite the discouragement and roadblocks that arise along the way, Our Lord accompanies us in our evangelization efforts.
- As we befriend and accompany the stranger, we know that our Lord first encounters us and intercedes for us so “that all may be one” (John 17).

Cardinal Virtue: Fortitude (strength and perseverance)

Year Five, 2029 – Renewed in Trust

Based on:

- a. Our Lady’s Fourth Apparition to San Juan Diego: Juan Diego’s uncle, Juan Bernardino, was sick and, instead of returning to Our Lady, Juan Diego was looking for a priest to give his uncle last rites. Our Lady appeared to him on his path, comforted him and promised healing. Through this promise Juan Diego was renewed and he asked for the Sign – he was sent up the hill to pick roses.
- b. USCCB Pastoral Vision Guideline for Hispanic/Latino Ministry: “A pastoral vision and practice that seeks ecclesial integration and inclusion in the context of a multicultural Church” (Missionary Disciples, p.13).

Themes:

- Inclusion – you are not forgotten, and you have a role in the Church. When we feel forgotten, we are reminded of the words of Our Lady of Guadalupe: “Let not your heart be disturbed... Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection?” We hear her say to us, “I still believe in you.”
- The truth that God has a plan for each of our lives allows us to be renewed in trust, and to continue on the mission knowing that everything will be taken care of.

Cardinal Virtue: Justice (fair and equitable treatment)

Year Six, 2030 – The Encounter Moment

Based on:

- a. “The Sign/Event” – San Juan Diego released the roses before the bishop and there was a miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on his tilma. The bishop agreed to build the church and Juan Diego stayed with the bishop, showing him the location on Tepeyac Hill the next day.
- b. USCCB Pastoral Vision Guideline for Hispanic/Latino Ministry: “A synodal and missionary Church that is leaven for the Reign of God in the world”(Missionary Disciples, p.15).

Themes:

- This moment of unveiling the tilma was a crucial moment of encounter and conversion for both the bishop and Juan Diego – it would change their faith forever. We must remember the value of reflecting on the moments in our own lives when others evangelized us, pondering the questions “when did I first personally encounter Jesus?” and “what moment of encounter along the way made the faith real to me?” Such encounter moments change our hearts and allow us to evangelize from a place of sincere conversion, not obligation alone.
- Such conversion, coupled with prudence, allows us to be true leaven in the world.

Virtue: Prudence (wise and practical decisions)

Year Seven, 2031 – Go Forth in Joy

Based on:

Our Lady's Apparition to Juan Bernardino: San Juan Diego went to visit his uncle, Juan Bernardino, who was no longer sick but now happy, healthy, and rejoicing. Our Lady had appeared to the uncle confirming everything she had told Juan Diego and healed him of his ailments. She also revealed her title: the ever-virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe.

"I will give Him (the Lord) to the people in all my personal love, in my compassion, in my help, in my protection: because I am truly your merciful Mother..." - Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego

Themes:

- As Our Lady reveals her title of "the ever-virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe" and her identity as a bearer of Christ, we are reminded that evangelization is about a personal encounter – ultimately with the very presence of God – and that we are called to be bearers of Christ to one another.
- This final apparition is not the end, but merely the beginning. It is time to go forth and build the cathedral in the hearts of others. Like Juan Diego's uncle, whose encounter with the Virgin left him renewed and rejoicing, we go forth in joy to bring the Good News to others. As we grow deeper in our relationship with Christ, we are also called to go farther out to the peripheries, being messengers of His mercy.
- Let us also go forth in joy as we approach The Year of the Lord in 2033 – the 2,000-year anniversary of Jesus' passion, death, resurrection and ascension.

Virtue: Charity (selfless and unconditional love)

3. OUR MISSION FOR YEAR ONE 2025 – YEAR OF HOPE

Based on 2025 Jubilee of Hope – Pope Francis’ Papal Bull, (*Spes Non Confundit*, 5/9/2024):

“Through Juan Diego, the Mother of God brought a revolutionary message of hope that she continues to bring to every pilgrim and all the faithful: ‘Am I not here, who am your Mother?’” (*Spes*, 24)

Themes:

- Evangelizing through Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of all.
- Evangelizing through the 10 hopes as laid out in *Spes Non Confundit*.

Theological Virtue: Hope (optimism and confidence in God)

This Pastoral Plan, designed to promote an effective and sustainable culture of evangelization, will be introduced each year in seven parts. Beginning with this Year of Hope and years leading up to 2031, the purpose is to develop a culture of testifying to the Light of the mystery of Love.

Christ is the Light and we who testify to the Light acknowledge that in Him we find the fullness of God revealed. God is Love and we who abide in Love, abide in God. It is here where we encounter the mystery of Love, a love that cannot be defined or solved as one would a puzzle. A mystery is to be discovered, honored, and celebrated. This mystery begins and ends with Christ (The Beginning and End), who is found within the Church and our world. This Light became one with us (Emmanuel) and is forever found in the fabric of humanity; especially in the poor and the marginalized. For, as our Lord says, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Mt 25:40)

This first year of our seven-year pastoral plan is intended to be an exercise of internal review and awakening to a call to evangelize in unique and even daring ways. Jesus said to go out and make disciples (Matthew 28). If we are going to evangelize, we need to step outside of our own comfort zone and look to those who may even disagree with us, to look to those who are often neglected in our society, to those who are often neglected within the life of the Church and, at the very least, find them worthy and honorable. If we are called to fulfill the Commandment to love God with our whole heart, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves, we must find others worthy as God does.

Love – who is God – is what evangelization must lead us to. It is not about just leading people into church, it is about beginning to see other people and to see ourselves as worthy and honorable. That is why Pope Francis focuses on ten hopes outlined in *Spes non Confundit*, to point us to a higher level of our understanding of human dignity. If we are not evangelizing through the lens of human dignity, then we are not evangelizing. If we are not testifying to the Light of the mystery of the depths of God’s love who finds us worthy, then we are not evangelizing, we are not testifying properly.

Acknowledging the fundamental dignity and the mystery of Love in each person, we hereby embark on a journey of evangelization through the lens of human dignity. As Pope Francis reminds us in this Jubilee Year, “Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: ‘For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life’ (Rom 5:19) That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God’s grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit” (Spes, 3).

4. OUR COURSE OF ACTION

The following course of action for this Jubilee of Hope will include each of the ten hopes outlined by Pope Francis. Each of these hopes will be addressed from three perspectives: Diocesan, Parish, and Personal.

- a. Diocesan Perspective: The Offices of Evangelization and Human Dignity at the Diocesan Pastoral Center will offer programs, workshops, and celebrations throughout the year to engage the whole of the diocese in efforts to evangelize through the lens of human dignity.
- b. Parish Perspective: The Bishops’ Diocesan Pastoral Council, Offices of Evangelization and Liturgy offer pastors of parishes suggestions to embrace each of these hopes in the Jubilee Year. By no means are these suggestions mandates, nor are they exhaustive. They are intended to inspire each community to embark on effective and sustainable evangelization methods.
- c. Personal Perspectives: Throughout the year, every Catholic disciple in the diocese will be given opportunities to reflect on the value and purpose of evangelization and to take personal ownership of Christ’s Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples” (Mt 28). Personal ownership is where we will be able to assess the value of this pastoral plan. Again, the Offices of Evangelization, Human Dignity, and Liturgy will provide materials and opportunities throughout the year for Holy Hours, Pilgrimages, and Community outreach in order to engage our particular calling to evangelize.
- d. During the course of this year, our Diocesan Pastoral Council will measure and assess the effectiveness of this plan in order to identify successes and areas of improvement in order to continue a sustainable culture of evangelization within the diocese.

5. THE TEN HOPES OF *SPES NON CONFUNDIT*

In the first year of our seven-year pastoral plan, we are called to reflect on the Theological Virtue of Hope. Pope Francis' Papal Bull for the Jubilee Year, *Spes non Confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint), invites us to be *pilgrims of hope*. Some priests of our diocese are inviting their parishioners to make a pilgrimage to the holy doors in Rome during the Jubilee Year of Hope. Additionally, the pastors of the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona, Sacred Heart in Prescott, St. Anthony in Sacaton, St. Mary in Kingman, St. Mary's Basilica in Phoenix, and Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix, have agreed to welcome from throughout the Diocese of Phoenix *pilgrims of hope* to each of their designated jubilee sites. Parishes and individuals are invited to make a pilgrimage to one or all sites. Directions on how to make a pilgrimage to these local sites are [found here](#).

Within this same year, we are asked to consider the following ten hopes as outlined in *Spes non Confundit*. The challenge is for our diocese, parishes, and people of God to embrace a call to evangelize as we consider these hopes. Much of this evangelization begins with our own personal conversions to be hopeful even amid trials. This year is, "a *journey calling for moments of greater intensity* to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps toward the goal of encounter with the Lord Jesus." (Spes, 5). To this end, the following are presented as exercises toward promoting a culture of evangelization through the theological virtue of hope:

A. Hope for Peace Over Division:

Pope Francis urges us to consider a first hope for this Jubilee Year. "The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in the world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war" (Spes, 8). Begging for the Spirit of Peace to fill our hearts should be the beginning of our Jubilee Year of Hope, so that we "who are peacemakers will be called 'children of God' (Mt. 5:9).

1. Diocesan Plans to Promote Hope for Peace:

- a. To Inaugurate the Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024. Additionally, each of the designated pilgrimage sites in our diocese will hold an official minor procession and Holy Mass to mark the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year. The procession will begin at a newly planted *peace pole* with a prayer for the Spirit of Peace and Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, to lead us into this Holy Year. The times and dates for each of these solemn processions and Holy Masses are listed [here](#).
- b. Additional events to promote Hope for Peace, such as concerts, speaking engagements, and moderated discussions will be offered by the Offices for Human Dignity and Evangelization throughout the year.

2. *Suggestions to promote Hope for Peace on a Parish Level.*

- a. Parish communities, the Diocesan Pastoral Center, and various agencies (e.g., St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, Catholic Cemeteries, Catholic Schools, FSL, etc.) may wish to obtain *peace poles* in solidarity with those who throughout the world endure the tragedies of war.
- b. A special Holy Hour for Peace in each parish is encouraged to ring in the New Year.
- c. Parishes without images of our Patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe (She who is Our Queen of Peace) may wish to display a tilma within their church buildings to designate their participation in the seven-year Diocesan Pastoral Plan (TILMA) for the Diocese of Phoenix.

3. *Suggestions to embrace Hope for Peace on a Personal Level:*

- a. Consider making a pilgrimage to any and each of the designated pilgrim sites within the diocese. Guidelines for making this pilgrimage (including obtaining a plenary indulgence) are found [here](#).
- b. Hope for peace begins at home. Consider visiting your church and making peace with God and with yourself. Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is encouraged.
- c. Offer a Mass for Peace in the World sometime this year.
- d. At the beginning of this year, reach out to a neighbor or family member with whom you have been estranged and begin a path toward peace, reconciliation, and communion this year.

B. Hope for Enthusiasm for Life and a Readiness to Share It:

Pope Francis reminds us to “recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26), cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfillment in material realities alone” (Spes, 9).

1. *Diocesan Plans to Promote Enthusiasm for Life and to Share It:*

- a. To celebrate the fullness of life found in Christ, the Diocese will celebrate the Rite of Election in four locations during the Lenten Season of 2025. Pastors, catechists, and those to be received into the fullness of Christ and His Church will receive an invitation to attend one of the Rite of Elections in March at the times and locations listed [here](#).
- b. A diocesan event for Pastors and members of their parish evangelism team, called “Enthusiasm for Life through Hospitality” will be offered to share best practices in reaching out to the affiliated and unaffiliated members of the faith.
- c. Workshops for a new ongoing event to be held throughout the diocese called, Worship on Wednesdays (W.O.W) will be promoted through the Office for Evangelization.

2. *Suggestions to Promote Enthusiasm for Life on a Parish Level:*

- a. Pastors are encouraged to promote parish participation at the Rite of Election, “Enthusiasm for Life through Hospitality” and W.O.W workshops (B-1.2. above).
- b. Pastors are encouraged to invite children and adults to offer letters of prayer and blessings (*Palancas*) for those who will be received as members of the Elect. These letters should be collected before the Rite of Election and presented to the Elect shortly thereafter.
- c. Parishes are invited to begin small church gatherings in their homes during Lent by incorporating the Diocesan Christ in Our Neighborhood program. Information for Christ in Our Neighborhood is found [here](#).

3. *Suggestions to Promote Enthusiasm for Life on a Personal Level:*

- a. Consider opening your home for a Lenten Scripture reflection using the Christ in Our Neighborhood series found [here](#).
- b. Consider participation in any one of your local parish groups, ministries, or organizations. Invite others to do the same.
- c. Consider attending a parish retreat or make a personal retreat sometime this year.

C. Hope for Openness to Life and Responsible Parenthood

Pope Francis reminds us that a lack of enthusiasm for life and a readiness to share it is due to several factors: “today’s frenetic pace, fears about the future, the lack of job security and adequate social policies, and social models whose agenda is dictated by the quest for profit rather than concern for relationships” (Spes, 9). He continues, “A first effect of this is the loss of the desire to transmit life” resulting in “an alarming decline in the birthrate” (Spes, 9).

In the State of Arizona, the recent Proposition 139 was passed opening the door to greater access to abortion. While this is a serious concern, and our Office for Respect Life and Arizona Catholic Conference will continue to address this, we must also take a careful look at the root-causes for a loss of desire to transmit life. Additionally, we must also examine root causes for the lack of people’s desire for responsible parenthood and marriage.

1. *Diocesan Plans to Promote Openness to Life and Responsible Parenthood:*

- a. The Bishop’s Vicar for Synodality and Planning and Diocesan Pastoral Council will conduct a synod with youth and young adults and newly and seasoned married couples to consider root-causes for the lack of desire to transmit life as well as the obstacles for responsible parenthood in family homes.
- b. The Office for Marriage and Diocesan Presbyteral Council will address perceived and/or real barriers and obstacles in our current guidelines for weddings within the diocese.
- c. The Office for Respect Life, the Office for Marriage, and the Office for Youth and Young Adults will have a gathering of leaders of Marriage Encounter, Engaged Encounter, Retrouvaille, and

other diocesan organizations to address what was heard during the synod conducted by the Vicar for Synodality and Pastoral Planning.

2. *Suggestions for Hope for Openness to Life and Responsible Parenthood on a Parish Level:*

- a. Pastors are encouraged to offer occasional or regular baptism of infants, blessings of expectant parents and blessings of newly engaged at their parishes within Sunday Mass throughout this Year of Hope.
- b. Parishes are encouraged to hold seasonal events specifically for children (Christmas pageants, Easter Egg hunts, Trunk or Treat, etc.) to foster an openness to life and to celebrate Christ's command to "Let the children come to me." (Mt 19)
- c. Parishes are encouraged to offer a "Date Night" for couples with food and discussion on best practices in marriage and parenting.

3. *Suggestions for Hope for Openness to Life and Responsible Parenthood on a Personal Level:*

- a. Offer a prayerful card of congratulations to a neighbor who has a child in their life and/or a newly married couple in your parish.
- b. Offer a Mass intention for Openness to Life in our state and in our homes.
- c. Offer the Prayer to the Holy Family [here](#).

D. Hope for Prisoners and Restorative Justice:

Pope Francis reminds us of the fruits of any Jubilee year, including this Year of Hope. Drawing from Isaiah the Prophet, "The Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and released to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Is 61:1-2).

Pope Francis adds, "Jesus made those words his own at the beginning of his ministry, presenting himself as the fulfillment of the 'Year of the Lord's favor'" (cf. Lk 4:18-19). In every part of the world, believers, and their Pastors in particular, should be one in demanding dignified conditions for those in prison, respect for their human rights and above all the abolition of the death penalty, a provision at odds with Christian faith and one that eliminates all hope of forgiveness and rehabilitation. (Spes, 10)

1. *Diocesan Plans to Promote Hope for Prisoners and Restorative Justice:*

- a. Our Office for Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice will hold a forum on the nature of restoration, with discussions on levels of both retributive and restorative justice, justice as it is

carried out in our present civil system, finding solutions, where possible, for restoration between victims and the accused, restoring broken families, etc.

- b. Working with the Arizona Catholic Conference, the Office for Human Dignity, and local interreligious organizing ministries, the Diocese will resume tangible discussions with county and state officials on the present penal system, which includes the death penalty.
 - c. We will continue our efforts to assist the local Maximilian Kolbe project intended to bring formerly convicted men and women back into the framework of society.
2. *Suggestions for Hope for Prisoners and Restorative Justice on a Parish Level:*
- a. Parishes are invited to participate in *Get on The Bus Arizona*, a program that helps children visit incarcerated parents in Arizona prisons. Some parishes, like St. Francis Xavier in Phoenix, can offer information, and further direction may be received by calling the Office for Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice.
 - b. In this Jubilee Year, consider a Mass or Liturgy of the Word for parish families of those who are incarcerated.
 - c. Consider a letter campaign for parishioners who are incarcerated. Call the Office for Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice for more information.

3. *Suggestions for Hope for Prisoners and Restorative Justice on a Personal Level:*

- a. Attend the diocesan forum on Restorative Justice this year. Details may be found at the [Office of Prison Ministry](#).
- b. Assist in the letter campaign either through the diocese or your parish for those who are incarcerated.
- c. Spend a Holy Hour of prayer and/or adoration while meditating on Matthew 5:38-48 (Turning the other cheek, loving your enemy, praying for your persecutor, etc).

E. Hope for the Sick and Those Dedicated to Their Care

In *Spes non Confundit*, Pope Francis says, “Signs of hope should also be shown to the sick, at home or in hospital. Their sufferings can be allayed by the closeness and affection of those who visit them. Works of mercy are also works of hope that give rise to immense gratitude. Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those health care workers who, often in precarious conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable” (Spes, 11).

1. *Diocesan Plans for Hope for the Sick and Those Dedicated to Their Care:*

- a. The Office for Mental Health Ministry will continue to offer avenues and venues for those who struggle with mental wellness, even those who are burdened with stress due to sudden or ongoing physical disabilities. Outreach to family caregivers who struggle to balance home life with the

need to care for their loved ones who are homebound, developmentally or physically disabled, or suffer from mental health disorders will also be addressed.

- b. Working with the FSL and the Office for Human Dignity, the Diocese will provide a Day of Retreat and Prayer for those in the healthcare field.
- c. The Office for Evangelization, Discipleship, and Spirituality will lay out a practical plan for parishes to accommodate people with physical disabilities; including those who are hearing and visually impaired. The office will also provide guidance to parishes wishing to establish Religious Education classes for developmentally disabled.

2. *Suggestions for Hope for the Sick and Those Dedicated to Their Care on a Parish Level:*

- a. Pastors are encouraged to engage their Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Pastoral Care Ministers, and other groups in establishing coordinated efforts toward reaching out to the homebound.
- b. Pastors and their pastoral and finance councils are asked to establish practical solutions toward making their churches, schools, and halls easily accessible for those with disabilities and include them in ministries, groups, and organizations.
- c. A day of retreat and prayer for those in the healthcare field, in addition to the diocesan sponsored day, is encouraged.

3. *Suggestions for Hope for the Sick and Those Dedicated to Their Care on a Personal Level:*

- a. Offer prayer quilts, cards, or special gifts for those who are struggling with sudden or ongoing illness or disabilities.
- b. Offer a Mass intention for those in your family or neighborhood who would benefit from the prayers of the whole parish community.
- c. Visit a neighbor who is homebound and offer an act of gratitude for family members dedicated to their care.

F. Hope for Youth and Young Adults:

Acknowledging the energy and enthusiasm of our youth, Pope Francis says, “Yet it is sad to see young people who are without hope, who face an uncertain and unpromising future, who lack employment or job security, or realistic prospects after finishing school. Without the hope that their dreams can come true, they will inevitably grow discouraged and listless. Escaping into drugs, risk-taking and pursuit of momentary pleasure does greater harm to them in particular, since it closes them to life’s beauty and richness, and can lead to depression and self-destructive actions” (Spes, 12).

1. Diocesan Plans to Promote Hope for Youth and Young Adults:

The Diocesan Office for Mental Health Ministry has been working to accompany members within the community who are struggling with, among other realities, discouragement, hopelessness, and listlessness. In 2024, special grants have been given to assist students in some of our schools with greater financial assistance needs. Additionally, our high school programs have adopted career and technical education for students who, for various reasons, are unable to attend colleges or universities. We are grateful to countless donors who provided assistance to our college Newman Centers for Catholic young adults. While these are just a few ways in which our diocese is attempting to assist our younger population, this Jubilee Year prompts us to make even greater strides toward helping our youth and young adults find “life’s beauty and richness.”

- a. It is our hope that the youth and young adult synod conducted by the Bishop’s Vicar for Synodality and Pastoral Planning and Diocesan Pastoral Council (Section C-1.a. above), together with a recently published workbook from [Leadership Roundtable](#), will offer additional insights on how to provide an effective ministry for our younger generation.
- b. Recent studies in mental health show a link between helping others and physical well-being. Helping behavior, along with other types of interaction, is associated with positive health outcomes. Our Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, along with the Office for Social Justice, will promote two programs within this Jubilee Year: E.Y.E. (Engage Your Equal), with days of interaction in Africa for up to 15 young adults, and Poverty Immersion formational opportunities through Saint Vincent de Paul.
- c. A team of high school and young adults will begin planning for the 41st World Youth Day which will take place in Seoul, South Korea in August 2027.

2. Suggestions to Promote Hope for Youth and Young Adults on a Parish Level:

- a. Pastors are encouraged to invite Youth and Young Adults to participate in the Diocesan Synod for Young Adults to promote hope for enthusiasm for life and a desire to transmit life. (C-1a above)
- b. Pastors should consider having at least two young adults on their parish councils and other leadership committees.
- c. Parishes are encouraged to invite Young Adults to a diocesan workshop on how to promote W.O.W (B-1.b above) in their parishes.
- d. Pastors are urged to find new and creative pastoral ways to reach out to unaffiliated or disenfranchised young adults who may feel unwelcome in the life of the Church.

3. Suggestions to Promote Hope for Youth and Young Adults on a Personal Level:

- a. If you are a single or married young adult, consider participating in the special synod this year (C-1.a. above). Information and dates are forthcoming.

- b. Offer a Mass intention and holy hour for Hope for our youth and young adults in the Church and society.
- c. Offer the Prayer for Youth and Young Adults found on the [USCCB Website](#).

G. Hope for Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees:

“Signs of Hope should also be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families. Their expectations must not be frustrated by prejudice and rejection.” (Spes, 13).

1. Diocesan Plans to Promote Hope for Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees:

- a. The Office for Human Dignity will offer a forum for discussion on the Church’s call to “Recognize the Stranger.”
- b. Our Office for Hispanic ministry and St. Mary’s Basilica will offer a first-ever *Las Posadas* and continue to celebrate *Honor Your Mother* (Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Parade) in the downtown Phoenix.
- c. The Office for Human Dignity will work with Valley Interfaith Project, Kino Border Initiative, Catholic Charities, and the Arizona Catholic Conference in assessing the future for migrants living in our diocesan region.

2. Suggestions to Promote Hope for Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees on a Parish Level:

- a. Pastors will be encouraged to send members from their parish to attend the diocesan forum, “Recognize the Stranger.”
- b. Parishioners are invited to our diocesan multi-cultural events throughout the year, including Honor Your Mother, Simbang Gabi, Our Lady of LaVang, Las Posadas, etc., to witness the many gifts of those who have immigrated to the Diocese of Phoenix.
- c. Parishes are invited to hold inter-cultural events in their parishes through festivals, cultural awareness forums, etc.

3. Suggestions to Promote Hope for Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees on a Personal Level:

- a. Watch alone or with friends and family the 2024 movie “Cabrini,” about St. Frances Xavier Cabrini who arrived in New York in 1889 as an Italian Immigrant.
- b. Read *Walk With My People* by Fr. Michael McAndrew, CSsR, who shares his life in the migration ministry.
- c. Meditate on [Matthew 25:31-46](#).

H. Hope for the Elderly:

Pope Francis reminds us, “The elderly, who frequently feel lonely and abandoned, also deserve signs of hope. Esteem for the treasure that they are, their life experiences, their accumulated wisdom and the contribution that they can still make, is incumbent upon the Christian community and civil society, which are called to cooperate in strengthening the covenant between generations.” (Spes, 14).

Several of our states and countries have implemented or are considering the implementation of physician assisted suicide. This troubling measure has been considered for our own State of Arizona. Communities where human beings are treated in a utilitarian manner (e.g. have the ability to work or tend to self, etc.), must consider the true value of the human person who is inherently imbued with dignity, which makes each of us subject of some inalienable rights, chief of which is the right to life, and the foundation upon which all other rights are based.

1. Diocesan Plans to Promote Hope for the Elderly:

- a. The Vicar for Human Dignity will establish a taskforce to develop a plan like the California Bishops’, “Whole Person Care Initiative,” which provides communication between family members, hospitals, senior care facilities, Catholic chaplains and hospice care, parishes and pastors, and extraordinary ministers of communion.
- b. The Office for Respect Life, along with FSL, will create a strategy for greater outreach to families whose loved ones need memory care.
- c. A day of reflection with pastors will be held within the year to discover and share best practices in ministering to the elderly in their parishes.

2. Suggestions to Promote a Hope for the Elderly in Parishes:

- a. Parishes are encouraged to hold weekly or monthly gatherings of elderly people in their parish communities.
- b. Pastors are asked to promote a Legion of Mary council (or equivalent) whose outreach would be to the homebound and those living in centers for senior living.
- c. Pastors will be asked to attend a diocesan day of reflection as described above (E-1.c.).

3. Suggestions to Promote Hope for the Elderly on a Personal Level:

- a. Consider reaching out to a person on your street or in your neighborhood who may appreciate a friendly visit or special invitation to your home.
- b. Ask your pastor if he knows of a group in the parish dedicated to visiting the homebound.
- c. If you are fifty years or older, consider participating in Experience Corps Phoenix, or similar programs, which help children become proficient readers.

I. Hope for the Poor and the Hungry:

In *Spes non Confundit*, Pope Francis says, “I ask with all of my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life . . . We must not close our eyes to the dramatic situations that we now encounter all around us . . . Each day we meet people who are poor and impoverished; they may even be our next-door neighbors. Often, they are homeless or lack sufficient food for the day. They suffer from exclusion and indifference on the part of many.” (Spes, 15).

In the Diocese of Phoenix, we should be proud of the number of ways in which we are attending to the poor and the marginalized. Saint Vincent de Paul, with nearly 15,000 volunteers at the center at parish locations, is the largest in the United States. Our Catholic Charities, FSL, Andre House, and other local entities continue to make “hope for the poor” their priority. Still, in this Jubilee Year, we must consider additional ways to meet this heavily neglected population.

1. Diocesan Plans to Promote Hope for the Poor and the Hungry:

- a. The Office of the Bishop and the Office for Human Dignity will continue to collaborate with heads of our local agencies dedicated to the poor and prepare a day of reflection for parish leaders on “Hope for the Poor and Hungry.”
- b. The Office for Human Dignity and Valley Interfaith Project will have a day’s meeting with City officials to address human trafficking and propose tangible and effective opportunities for change.
- c. Through the Office for Catholic Social Teaching, we will continue to promote special collections for Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, World Mission Sunday, Solidarity with the Church in Africa, etc.

2. Suggestions for Providing Hope to the Poor and the Hungry at the Parish Level:

- a. Pastors and parish leaders dedicated to the poor will be invited to a day of prayer and reflection on “Hope for the Poor and Hungry.”
- b. Pastors are asked to make a concerted effort this year to promote the various USCCB special collections with added emphasis on matters related to global poverty.
- c. Pastors and Parish Councils are asked to have a frank discussion on their outreach to the poor in their local regions.

3. Suggestions for Providing Hope to the Poor and the Hungry on a Personal Level:

- a. Meditate on [Matthew 25:31-46](#).
- b. Consider becoming a member of St. Vincent de Paul in your parish community.

- c. Read *Thérèse* by Venerable Dorothy Day.

J. Hope for Greater Christian Unity:

Pope Francis reminds us that “The coming Jubilee Year will also coincide with a significant date for all Christians, namely the 1700th anniversary of the celebration of the first Ecumenical Council, that of Nicaea ... The Jubilee can serve as an important occasion for giving concrete expression to this form of synodality, which the Christian community today considers increasingly necessary for the urgent need for evangelization ... At the same time, Nicaea represents a summons to all Churches and Ecclesial Communities to persevere on the path to visible unity and in the quest of fitting ways to respond fully to the prayer of Jesus “that all may be one” (Jn 17:21).” (*Spes, 17*).

1. Diocesan Plans to Promote Hope for Greater Christian Unity:

- a. The Bishop and the Director for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Diocese of Phoenix will establish a day of celebration commemorating the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.
- b. The Office for Evangelization will promote a special edition of Christ in Our Neighborhood commentaries for ecumenical circles to reflect on the Word of God during the Advent Season of 2025.
- c. A special ecumenical public event called, *Via Lucis*, celebrating the various Resurrection accounts in the Gospels will be held within the Easter Season.

2. Suggestions for Providing Hope for Greater Christian Unity on a Parish Level:

- a. Pastors are invited to promote Greater Christian Unity awareness within their local areas, especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- b. Parishes are invited to participate in Christ in Our Neighborhood (CION) or other Small Church Communities and participate in a special CION ecumenical series during the Season of Advent in 2025.
- c. Parishes are invited to participate in the day of celebration commemorating the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the Easter *Via Lucis* celebration.

3. Suggestions for Providing Hope for Greater Christian Unity on a Personal Level:

- a. Read The Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*.
- b. Participate in Diocesan or parish events on Christian Unity.
- c. Meditate on [Ephesians 4:1-7](#), with special attention to humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance.

6. CONCLUSION

This Pastoral Plan is a working document to promote an effective and sustainable culture of evangelization within the Diocese of Phoenix. Its purpose is to invite parishes and disciples within the diocese to seek every opportunity to know Christ and make Him known.

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ is not an option for Christians. Jesus' Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations" is a mandate for every Catholic (Mt 28:18-20). The challenge before us is to take ownership of this mandate.

While this first year of our Pastoral Plan provides a course of action on diocesan, parish, and personal levels to evangelize through the lens of human dignity, this Year of Hope is intended to act as a spiritual re-awakening to own personally Christ's Great Commission.

Of course, it would be impossible for every parish and/or person to take up every suggestion laid out in this Pastoral Plan. These are just suggestions. Focusing on even a few of these ten hopes to promote a culture of evangelization within our personal and parish lives is a step in the right direction.

The only goal for this Pastoral Plan is to "Testify, O Church, to the Light of the Mystery of Love." Let us make this our goal this year and over the next seven years as we prepare for the 500th Anniversary of Mary's appearance on Tepeyac Hill. Let us make this our mandate!

May Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of our diocese intercede for us as we embrace this Jubilee Year of Hope and as we lead others to her Son, Jesus!

Viva Maria!

Viva Cristo Rey!