



PILGRIMS OF HOPE



LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



As you probably have noticed and heard, the Pope declared a Jubilee Year which began on December 24th, 2024, and will end on January 6, 2026. There will be many special events celebrating the Jubilee Year, special prayer opportunities, and processions.

I thought it might be helpful to us all to focus some attention on the above logo that is being used and the meaning behind it. First of all, the logo shows four figures representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. You will see that they embrace each other indicating solidarity and fraternity which should unite all people. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of faith which this lead figure is holding but also of hope, which can never be abandoned. This is so important because we are always in need of hope, especially in moments of great need. Next you see the rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. How often the everyday circumstances of life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. Next, be sure to pay attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. Some might be familiar with the anchor as a symbol of hope. Those with boats know the anchor is used to stabilize the vessel, especially during stormy weather. Another feature of the image is very important (I think) --- the pilgrim's journey should not be seen as just an individual undertaking but as a journey that is communal. Also, see the cross as something dynamic. It bends in the logo towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. Naturally, the bottom of the logo is the motto of the Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope.

Have a hope-filled week ahead!