



## Become a Pilgrim of Hope

**Become of Sign of Hope.** Pope Francis is calling us who have placed our hope in the Lord Jesus Christ **to bring that hope to a hurting world.** We all need hope, especially when we face our own trials or witness bad things happening in the world around us. Beyond that, though, **the Holy Father has urged us to be “tangible signs of hope to those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kinds”** (*Specs non confudit*, 10).

Among those he has singled out are people in prison or newly arrived from another country, as well as those who are poor, sick or elderly. Pope Francis is especially concerned about the need for young people to have hope in the future and encourage us to make greater efforts to reach out to them.

**Even the Church needs hope, Pope Francis said in a homily last year announcing the theme of the Jubilee.** Members of the body of Christ may feel weary and burdened at times, he said but hope will help the Church “always remember that, as the Bride of Christ, she is loved with an eternal and faithful love” and that she is “called to hold high the light of the Gospel” (May 9, 2024).

**Can you reach out to someone this year who needs to witness your hope in Christ?** Perhaps you could befriend a young person who seems lost, or a sick or elderly person who is confined at home with few visitors, or organize a food drive to help the needy.

**Anchored in Hope.** Finally, throughout this holy year, keep in mind the **image of an anchor, which keeps us steady and secure**, especially when we find ourselves in troubled waters. It’s an **image that Pope Francis draws from Scripture: the “anchor of the soul” that can help us “hold fast to the hope that lies before us”** - the hope that one day, we will spend eternal life in union with God (Hebrews 6:18, 19). “The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for **we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear, and death”** (*Specs non confudit*, 25)