



Diocesan Decree for the Year of St. Francis of Assisi

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, to commemorate the eight hundredth anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi.

The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting the Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions which can also be applied in the form of suffrage for the souls in Purgatory.

Besides offering the indulgence to all the Franciscan Families and anyone who observes the Rule of St. Francis, all the faithful without distinction can receive the indulgence *“by visiting in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church, or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to St. Francis or connected to him for any reason, and there they will devoutly follow the Jubilee rites or spend at least a suitable period of time in pious meditation and will raise prayers to God so that, following the example of St. Francis, may sentiments of Christian charity towards one's neighbor and authentic wishes for harmony and peace among peoples spring up in hearts, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Francis of Assisi, St Clare and all the saints of the Franciscan Family”* (Eighth Centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, Apostolic Penitentiary Decree).

Therefore, I, the Most Rev. Ramon Bejarano, Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey, decree that the following churches/chapels are the pilgrimage destinations in this diocese for this special Jubilee.

1. **Old Mission San Juan Bautista, St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista, CA and St. Clare Retreat Center, Soquel CA** in the north of the Diocese.
2. **St. Paul the Apostle, Pismo Beach, CA** in the south of the Diocese.

The elderly, the sick and those who for serious reasons cannot leave home will also be able to obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining the Jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God.

Conditions for receiving the Indulgence *(for oneself or for the deceased)*

- Sacramental confession to be in God's grace *(within twenty days before or after)*.
- Participation in Mass and Eucharistic Communion.
- Visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world or designated by the local bishop.
- Renews one's profession of faith, through the recitation of the Creed.
- Recite the Lord's Prayer.
- Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Given at the Diocese of Monterey on February 27, 2026

+ Ramon Bejarano

Most Reverend Ramón Bejarano
Bishop of Monterey

Updated April 2, 2026