



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

December 16, 2024

Reverend G. Dennis Gill
Rector
Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
1723 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Father Gill,

The Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 promises many blessings for the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In his *Bull of Indiction* for the Jubilee Year (*Spes non confundit*, May 9, 2024), Pope Francis gives a priority to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as well as the Jubilee Indulgence.

The Apostolic Penitentiary in response to the Holy Father's instruction outlines the many wonderful and varied ways to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Among these are pilgrimages and pious visits to sacred places. **By way of this letter, I decree that your church and/or shrine is a Sacred Jubilee Site in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the clergy and faithful to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.** Please read in full the *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 called by His Holiness Pope Francis*, May 13, 2024 (hereafter *Decree*, copy attached). This *Decree* describes more fully how your church and/or shrine can assist all who make a pilgrimage and/or a pious visit as *Pilgrims of Hope*, with privileged opportunities to encounter Our Lord Jesus Christ in his grace and mercy.

This Jubilee Indulgence is available to all who make a pilgrimage and/or a pious visit to your church and/or shrine from Sunday, December 29, 2024, through Sunday, December 28, 2025, in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In addition to the pilgrimage and/or pious visit, "all the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin (see *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, IV ed., norm. 20, § 1), who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory (see *Decree*)."

You are asked to publish widely through electronic and print media the possibility, conditions and opportunities for the Jubilee Indulgence as a Sacred Jubilee Site. In addition, you are asked to arrange and publish a variety of occasions for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with special attention to the forms found in the *Order of Penance*, 2013.

I am very grateful to you and to all who will assist you during this Jubilee Year to provide with great generosity for the Jubilee Indulgence.

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nelson J. Pérez".

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia