



# Diocese of Brownsville

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Office of the Bishop

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## DECRETUM AEPISCOPI In Festo Iubilaeo Plenario

**To All the Faithful of the Diocese of Brownsville,**

In the grace and mercy of God, I, Daniel E. Flores, Bishop of Brownsville, announce to you with great joy the celebration of a Plenary Jubilee Year 2025, granted by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to the Universal Church. The Holy Father desires that the theme of the Holy Year be the witness of the "Church as "Pilgrims of Hope."

In keeping with the provisions of the papal bull SPES NON CONFUNDIT published by the Supreme Pontiff on May 9, 2024, the Jubilee will be observed in our Diocese beginning on Sunday, December 29, 2024, and conclude on Sunday, December 28, 2025. During this holy time, the faithful will have the extraordinary opportunity to receive a Plenary Indulgence through the established means, as set forth by the Holy See.

It is with a joyful heart that as the bishop of this diocese by the Grace of God and the Favor of the Apostolic See, in the spirit of pastoral solicitude, I invite Christ's faithful - the Clergy, those in Religious and Consecrated Life, and the Lay Faithful of this diocese - to join me in giving thanks to God for the many blessings and favors bestowed on this diocese.

As we come together in celebration of this Holy Year, I declare that Plenary Indulgences will be granted to all who make pilgrimage to any of the four designated churches which I designate within the Diocese of Brownsville. **The Four Churches where the Jubilee Indulgence May Be Gained:**

1. **Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Brownsville, Texas**
2. **Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle - National Shrine, San Juan, Texas**
3. **Immaculate Conception Parish, Rio Grande City, Texas**
4. **Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Raymondville, Texas**

**Conditions for Gaining the Plenary Indulgence:**

In order to gain the Plenary Indulgence, the faithful must visit one of the Churches designated as a pilgrimage site, and attentively offer prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father, in addition to any other personal intentions. It is recommended that the prayers include the recitation of the *Creed*, the *Our Father*, three *Hail Marys*, and the *Glory Be*. Participation in other devotions and communal celebrations organized by the designated churches are heartily encouraged for the upbuilding of faith, hope and charity in our communities. The usual conditions for the indulgence apply:

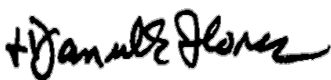
1. **Participation in a Holy Mass** – Around the time of the pilgrimage, attend Holy Mass in any of the designated Jubilee Churches during the year, or if that is not possible, at any parish or mission church.
2. **Confession** – A Sacramental Confession must be made, either prior to or within a few days of the Jubilee pilgrimage.
3. **Holy Communion** – Reception of the Most Holy Eucharist during a Mass, near the time of the pilgrimage.
4. **Detachment from Sin** – A firm resolution to detach oneself from all sin, even venial sin, is required.

This Plenary Indulgence may be gained once a day, provided the faithful fulfill the prescribed conditions.

**Additional Provisions:**

1. Works of mercy and penance - In addition, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, with a devout spirit, they participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, corporal or spiritual works of mercy, formation activities aimed at fostering Christian life and prayer, held in a church or other suitable place, with the intention of promoting the aims of the Jubilee of Hope.
2. The Plenary Indulgence is applicable to the souls in Purgatory. The faithful may also offer the indulgence for deceased family members or friends, as long as they meet the necessary conditions.
3. It is encouraged for the faithful to attend these designated churches regularly during the Jubilee Year, embracing the grace of this holy period.
4. The indulgence will be granted to the faithful who are physically unable to visit the four designated churches due to illness or other legitimate reasons, but who earnestly set time apart to join in the intentions of the Holy Year, and seek to fulfill the conditions of the indulgence to the best of their ability.

Given at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Brownsville, Texas on this 16th day of December, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.



Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD  
Bishop of Brownsville



Rev. Andres E. Gutierrez  
Chancellor