



Pope Leo XIV proclaims a Franciscan Jubilee Year for the 800th anniversary of the Death of St. Francis of Assisi

By decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary issued January 10, 2026, at the behest of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, the Church has proclaimed a special Year of St. Francis, from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the passage of St. Francis of Assisi into Heaven. This decree grants, throughout the entire period, the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence.

The Pope presents this time as a gift for the entire Church, not just for the Franciscan Family, so that the 800th anniversary may become an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal. The decree mentions how St. Francis remains extraordinarily relevant even in our own era and invites everyone to “become saints in the contemporary world, following the example of the Seraphic Patriarch,” turning hope into real charity and a real commitment to peace.

The plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions:

- Sacramental confession to be in God’s grace (in the eight days before or after);
- Participation in Mass and Eucharistic Communion. It may also be applied in suffrage for the souls in Purgatory;
- To visit in the form of a pilgrimage any Franciscan church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world;
- Pray the Our Father, the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis, St. Clare, and the Saints of the Franciscan Family, to reaffirm the dignity of children of God, received in Baptism;

Special consideration is given to the elderly, the sick, and those who are unable to leave their homes. They may gain the indulgence by spiritually joining in the celebrations and offering their sufferings and prayers to God.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also invites priests to make themselves widely available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that this time may truly be a time of mercy.

Thus, this Year of St. Francis presents itself as a time of favor, a grace offered to all, so that—as the Pope hopes — “feelings of Christian charity toward one’s neighbor and authentic desire for harmony and peace among peoples may be reborn in hearts.”

Conventual Franciscan General of Communication