



SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE COMMUNIQUE

JANUARY 2025

A Seven Sister: One holy hour/one priest/each week/one heart of prayer

SEVEN SISTERS – in and out and about:

Heartfelt welcome: NEW groups that registered in DECEMBER to cover more priests in daily prayer: Additional groups in Mexico (Monterey) and these USA states: Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Currently: **over 4500 groups** in 6 continents, 33 countries, all 50 USA states. Our sure mission in every diocese of every country: **Let no shepherd be left behind!**

Blessed and joy-filled Christmastide and Jubilee Year to YOU!

Wow – scores of Holy Cards went out last month. This offer remains:

GIFT for YOU: Striking NEW Apostolate Holy Card (4"x 5"). Prayerfully and generously painted by Seven Sister, Nancy T (California). Prayer on back from Pope Benedict XVI. **Send SASE** (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to: **Janette Howe, 43 Nord Circle Rd, St Paul, MN 55127**

ANCHORESSES:

Please **pass this Communiqué** on to group members.



Pope Francis opening the Holy Doors to the Jubilee Year (St Peter's Basilica, Roma)

Pilgrims of Hope

Christmastide and Jubilee-Year greetings to dearest Sisters in Christ – No matter the destination, my friend of

recent memory, Patti, persuasively (and always with a smile) suggested travelling a slightly diverted route to "where people need our prayers today". Heading toward those rough neighborhoods where her steady finger pointed, I locked the car doors while Patti unlocked her deep and driven heart of intercession. Enroute, the chitchat was over. It was time to partner in prayer for those trudging the coarser walkways of life. To these, who we caught only in glimpses as we passed by, we seemed to be sent to - on those days, in that hour, to beg hope.

Opening the Holy Doors on Christmas Eve the pope formally inaugurated the **Jubilee Year 2025**. Its theme: **Pilgrims of Hope**. The very title brings a promising level of expectation. *"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and farsighted vision,"* stated Pope Francis at the announcement of the plan months ago. What an affirmation and boost to **our very work as Seven Sisters!** How steadily we persist in our Holy Hours with these precise unwavering plans in mind – **of hope, of strength, of trust**. Yes, we are humbly familiar with the strides of pilgrims of hope! Oh, sisters in Christ, let us allow this Jubilee Year to fortify our resolve and more deeply conform us, and those for whom we pray, to Christ, Who is the fulfillment of our every Hope.

Finding its roots in the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year of rest, forgiveness and renewal, a holy year or jubilee is a time of **pilgrimage, prayer, repentance and acts of mercy**. Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Holy Year in 1300 and decreed that Jubilees be observed every 100 years. Yet just 50 years later, Pope Clement VI

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Pilgrimage necessarily requires **prayer, reflection and silence** to discover the heart's deepest cries and to discern the Will and guidance of God. Pilgrimage necessarily beckons movement – sometimes in the physical, always in the interior. In embracing the **pilgrim's heart** in this Jubilee Year, it behooves us to recall and relish the reality that Our Lord awakens us to His nearness when we call for Him, and more so, He stays with us. He is our Emmanuel and journeys with us. We are never alone. The same, of course, holds true for the priests/bishops for whom we pray. Oh, sisters in Christ, let us steadily plead both quieted and active pilgrim hearts for ourselves and for these brothers in Christ.

Walking through the doorway of designated Holy Doors is a sign of a desire for **conversion**. St John Paul II explains: *"To pass through that door means to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; it is to strengthen faith in Him in order to live the new life which He has given us. It is a decision which presumes freedom to choose and also the courage to leave something behind, in the knowledge that what is gained is divine life."* Envisioning the *portals of our hearts to fling wide* (as the hymn invites) to the graces of conversion is exhilarating and real. This openness often leads to a desire for repentance.

For all of us, **repentance** presents the essential starting point of true conversion, allowing Our Lord to give us eyes to see, ears to hear and courage to meet His deepest love and mercy. Oh, sisters in Christ, let this gift of repentance be a regular prayer for ourselves and for the priest/bishop for whom we pray.

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Pilgrims of Hope. We are being reminded in this Jubilee Year to fully live this God-given title. Hope is a stance rooted in a remembrance that God loves all and wants His good for each - here and in eternity. In *Spe Salvi*, his 2007 encyclical on hope, Pope Benedict XVI shares, *"The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life"* (2). My friend Patti consistently sought the bereft in society and tenaciously begged God to instill hope in their lives. Seven Sisters witness this too in heart and in prayer. Our hope is not meager nor timid, but audacious, for ourselves and for the priests/bishops for whom we pray. We together live what Pope Benedict penned: *"We become capable of the great hope, and thus we become ministers of hope for others. Hope in a Christian sense is always hope for others as well"* (*Spe Salvi*, 34). **Continue, sweet pilgrims, walk and grow in hope, and pray for ever-growing hope in our Shepherds!**

United in prayer, fasting and mission...*that our prayers may find the heart of every bishop and priest.* Eternal gratitude continues as **you each offer a daily wee Hail Mary for me.** **"One Ave Maria makes hell tremble"** (St John Vianney). Pray that I will not *'spoil the beautiful work that God has entrusted...'* (St Teresa of Calcutta). Your emails, notes and calls always arrive to my heart door at the just the right moment! Financial sacrifices are for 100% furtherance of the Apostolate. Your **letters of testimony** are beautiful and edifying! What glory is given to God through them! **Be assured** of my continued **daily prayers** for you at the altar.

- *Janette (Howe)* +**JMJ**+

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...in quietness and trust is your strength. - Isaiah 30:15

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Anchoresses: Please inform of all NEW groups and Anchoress/ priest/ other changes (including updates in your contact info) thru Web site. Know of my **special and steadfast prayers** for Anchoresses who serve such an indispensable and exemplary role in the Apostolate!

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<https://www.bonfire.com/seven-sisters-apostolate> OR
sevensistersseattle@gmail.com

Visit the Apostolate website today...
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Please like our Facebook page!
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Spanish page: www.facebook.com/Apostolado-Siete-Hermanas-112921710620881/



Impressive LOGO pendants available:

The elegant Eucharistic design and beauty on **both sides** speak perfectly of our Work!

Go to www.fountofgrace.com and click onto *Apostolate* top right. **Fount of Grace** owner, Seven Sister, **Jean M**, offers a **seventh pendant free** (least expensive of the seven) if all pendants are purchased at the same time. Sterling silver or 14 K gold vermeil; with or without a diamond. A portion of sales to the Apostolate. They start conversations – and maybe even groups!



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