

Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

October Activity Ideas for Families

October 4-5: Jubilee of Migrants

October 8-9: Jubilee of Consecrated Life

October 11-12: Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

October 30- November 2: Jubilee of the Educational World

Spiritual Activities

1. Hospitality Scripture Hunt – Explore how the Bible calls us to welcome the stranger.
 - Read short Scripture passages about hospitality (e.g. Leviticus 19:33-34, Matthew 25:35, Hebrews 13:2, and Deuteronomy 10:19). Discuss each verse together.
 - Invite children to draw pictures that illustrate what hospitality looks like and how God asks us to treat migrants.
 - Offer prayers for people who are leaving their homes, for their safety on the journey, and for welcoming communities to receive them.
2. St. Joseph the Migrant Reflection– Learn about St. Joseph who fled with Mary and Jesus to protect his family.
 - Read the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15) and reflect on how they were migrants.
 - Talk about how St. Joseph trusted God and protected his family.
 - On a map, show children the different regions with high migration.
 - Light a candle and pray a decade of the Rosary with a special intention for migrants and refugees.
3. “Yes to God”– Celebrate the courage it takes to say “yes” to God’s calling.
 - Light a candle as a family and read Luke: 1:38, when Mary says, “Let it be done to me”.
 - Reflect on how people in consecrated life echo that same “yes” every day.
 - Create a prayer jar filled with the names of local religious sisters, brothers, and priests.
 - Pull out a name each day and offer a prayer for that person’s ministry and vocation.

4. Visit a Convent or Monastery– Seeing religious life in action brings it to life for kids.
 - If possible, visit a local religious community, or find a virtual tour online.
 - Pray as a family after the visit asking God to bless those who dedicated their lives to Him.
 - Create a short litany of gratitude naming the gifts of the religious life (e.g. “For their lives of prayer, we thank You, O Lord. For their work with the poor...”)
Children can add their own lines to the litany.
5. Mary, Model of Listening- Mary teaches us how to quietly listen to God in our hearts.
 - Set up a small Marian altar, or table, with a statue, or image of Mary, flowers, and a candle.
 - Light a candle and reflect on Luke 2:19: “Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Ask, “What is God saying to me today?”
 - Let each family member share one way they’ll say yes with their actions.
 - Teach family members a Marian song (e.g. *Immaculate Mary, Hail, Holy Queen*).
Talk about what the lyrics mean.
6. “Wisdom from God” – Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your family’s learning journey.
 - Find and read Scripture passages about wisdom and knowledge (e.g. Proverbs 2:6, James 1:5, Luke 2:52).
 - Have children choose a verse to copy and illustrate. Hang it near their homework space.
 - Light a candle and pray together using a simple prayer for wisdom, like the *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*.
 - Ask God to help your family grow in understanding, curiosity, and truth.
7. Education Blessings – Ask God to bless your family’s learning tools and efforts.
 - Gather school supplies, books, or devices and offer a short blessing over them.
 - Sprinkle holy water if available. Thank God for the gift of education and ask Him to bless your child’s efforts.
 - Teach children a short prayer to St. Joseph of Cupertino, patron saint of students. Encourage them to use the prayer before tests, tough assignments, or big projects.
 - Discuss how saints can walk with us in our learning.
8. Prayer for Teachers and Mentors – Educators play a vital role in helping children become who God calls them to be.
 - Write the names of the children’s teachers and mentors on a slip of paper and place them in a basket.
 - Set aside time as a family to pray for your children’s teachers, principals, catechists, and coaches.

Educational and Formation Opportunities

1. Family Story Mapping – Understanding migration begins with knowing our own family and where we come from.
 - Create a simple “family migration map” using a world map or globe.
 - Help children identify where your family came from (even if it was generations ago). Mark any places your ancestors or extended family migrated from.
 - Discuss why people move (e.g. work, safety, family, opportunity) and how the Church teaches us to respond with love and welcome.
2. Stories of Migration– Help children understand the reasons behind migration.
 - Choose age-appropriate picture books or short biographies about migrants or refugees (e.g. *My Name is Sangoel*, by Karen Lynn Williams or *The Journey*, by Francesca Sanna).
 - Discuss how the characters felt and the challenges they faced.
3. Visit a Cultural Museum or Exhibit – Seeing artifacts and stories from other cultures can open our hearts and minds.
 - Visit a local museum, cultural center, or online exhibit focused on immigration.
 - Reflect, as a family, on what you learned and how migration has shaped your community and faith.
 - Look up a Catholic tradition, or feast day, celebrated by Catholics in another country (e.g. Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, Sambaing Gabi in the Philippines).
 - Learn how it’s celebrated and try a simple version at home to see how faith travels with people.
4. Who are the Consecrated? – Help children understand the many forms of consecrated life.
 - Read or watch stories of religious men and women who followed God’s call. Many dioceses and religious communities have short videos or written testimonies online.
 - Look through images or videos of religious communities and identify symbols like habits, veils, rosaries, crucifixes, and community life.
 - Make a simple booklet or poster introducing different types of consecrated life: religious sisters and brothers, monks, nuns, hermits, consecrated virgins, etc.
5. Saints Who Were Religious – Many saints lived lives of total commitment to God.
 - Learn about a saint who was a religious brother, sister, or monk (e.g. St. Clare, St. Benedict, or St. Teresa of Avila).
 - Create a saint card with their image, order, and one quote, or act of service.
 - Discuss ways they have dedicated their lives to Christ.

6. Mary in the Bible- Mary appears at key moments in Scripture.
- Read, or summarize, key Scripture stories involving Mary (e.g. Annunciation, Visitation, Wedding at Cana, at the Cross).
 - Create a simple timeline with events in Mary's life, from her birth to the Assumption.
 - Use images or symbols for each event. Invite children to add their own drawings or prayers.

As an extension activity, print, or create, a calendar of Marian feast days. Color or decorate each date, and choose a few feast days to celebrate at home with special prayers, flowers, or treats.

7. Faith in the Classroom – Catholic history is filled with brilliant minds and faithful learners.

- Research saints known for their learning (e.g. St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton).
- Include short facts about what they studied or taught.
- Children can prepare a simple lesson about the saint they learned about.

As an extension activity, families can discuss ways that children can live out their faith at school: being honest on tests, welcoming a new student, speaking kindly, asking good questions, and praying before meals.

Service-Oriented Activities

1. Welcome Bags for Newcomers – Show hospitality in action by preparing simple care packages for families who are new to your community.
 - Work together to create welcoming bags with small essential (e.g. snacks, toiletries, local information, children's coloring books, etc.).
 - At the start of school, small kits with school supplies, encouraging notes, and a snack or toy, can be given to new students who may be recent arrivals.
 - Work with your parish to distribute the welcome bags.
2. Support a Migrant-Focused Ministry – Get to know organizations that are doing good work and see how your family can help.
 - Research Catholic Charities, or other faith-based programs that assist migrant families.
 - Pray for their work and write a letter of thanks to a staff member, or volunteer.
 - Support a fundraiser with your family's help.
3. Sponsor a Sister – Support the work of religious life through action.
 - Research a ministry run by religious brothers or sisters (e.g. school, hospital, or shelter).
 - Assign family chores with a twist: for each completed task, place a small donation in a jar.
 - Donate supplies for the religious order that was chosen at the end of the month.

4. “Live like a Religious” Day – Experience a small taste of the religious life.
 - Choose one day to live simply: limit electronics, eat modestly, and schedule time for prayer and service to others.
 - Reflect on how these changes helped you grow closer to God and to others.As an extension activity, attend a holy hour Mass, or prayer service offered for vocations or the consecrated life.
5. “Visit like Mary” – Mary visited Elizabeth to help and rejoice. Find ways as a family to do the same.
 - Complete one “Visitation” act as a family.
 - Bring cookies to a neighbor, call a grandparent, or visit someone who is lonely.
 - Say a prayer for them after the visit.
6. Donate Blue for Mary – Use Mary’s iconic color to inspire giving.
 - Collect blue items (e.g. blankets, socks, hygiene kits, etc.) for a women’s shelter or family ministry.
 - Discuss how Mary helps all mothers and children in need.
7. Back-to-School Supply Drive – Make sure every child has the tools to learn.
 - Organize a drive for school supplies, especially for underserved students.
 - Let children help choose, pack, label, and deliver the supplies.
8. “Buddy-Time” Learning – Help another student feel more confident and capable.
 - Reach out to a friend who might be struggling with homework, or reading, and offer to help.
 - Encourage older siblings, or friends, to tutor, or help, younger children with school work.

As an alternate activity, children can take turns reading aloud to younger siblings, neighbors, or they can even record a video or story time for children. Encourage expressive reading and meaningful stories.

Legacy Projects

1. “One Thing I Can Do” Family Commitment Board – Teach children that even small acts of welcome and understanding can create a better world.
 - As a family, reflect on one ongoing action each person can take to make migrants and newcomers feel welcomed (e.g. learning a new language, being a buddy to a new student, writing letters to leaders supporting migrant rights).
 - Write these on a poster and place it as a reminder of your Jubilee commitment.
2. Sponsor a Family in Prayer – Make a long-term spiritual commitment to a family in transition.
 - Adopt a refugee, or migrant, family in prayer (even if you have never met them).
 - You can symbolically “sponsor” a family through your parish, a Catholic aid organization, or simply by picking a country in need.
 - Pray for the family daily, or weekly, and include them in your family intentions.
3. “My Life for God” Poster – Help children envision what it means to give your whole life to God.

- Have each child create a poster with their name and symbols of how they might serve God now, and in the future.
 - Include prayer, kindness, helping others, and being open to a vocation.
4. “Mary Taught Me” Journal – Record the virtues Mary teaches us, and how we can grow in them.
 - Start a journal titled, “Mary Taught Me...”
 - Write, or draw, ways you showed humility, patience, joy, or trust like Mary.
 - Add to it weekly and look back at it at the end of the Jubilee.
 5. Family Consecration to Mary – Entrust your family to Mary’s care, as many saints did.
 - Use a simple consecration prayer (such as the one from St. Louis de Montfort or St. John Paul II) and pray it together.
 - Print the prayer and frame it as a lasting spiritual commitment.
 6. Mary’s Legacy Flower Pot – Plant a living reminder of Mary’s presence in your family’s life.
 - Decorate a flower pot with Marian symbols or words (e.g. “Fiat”, “Peace,” “Mother”).
 - Plant marigolds, roses, or other “Mary” flowers.
 - Water it regularly and use it as a reminder to pray and grow in faith.
 7. Build a Family Library Shelf – Learning thrives when surrounded by good books.
 - Start, or expand, your family’s library with books that inspire faith, imagination, and curiosity.
 - Include religious books, biographies, classic stories, and age-appropriate nonfiction.
 - Add a label: “A Legacy of Learning”.
 8. Educational Legacy Interview – Elders are living libraries.
 - Help your child interview a grandparent, neighbor, or parishioner.
 - Your child can ask them about their favorite subject in school, a lesson they never forgot, or how their education shaped their faith.
 - Record the interview as a keepsake.

Creative Celebrations

1. Festival of Cultures Night – Celebrate the richness migrants bring to the world by exploring and honoring different cultures.
 - Choose a country with a significant migrant population in your area or parish and dedicate a night to exploring its food, music, and traditions.
 - Cook a traditional dish together, listen to music from that region, learn a few words in the native language, and say a prayer for the people of that country.
 - You can even make it a monthly tradition featuring different cultures throughout the Jubilee.
2. “Passport of Prayers” Craft – Help children see how the Church is global and united in prayer.
 - Make a pretend “passport” with pages for different countries.

- One each page, draw the country flag, write a prayer intention for children, or migrants, from that country, and stamp, or sticker it, when you complete it.
 - Celebrate with a “passport” party when you are finished with the project.
3. “Dress like a Saint” Day – Bring religious vocations to life through dress-up and storytelling.
 - Choose a religious saint (e.g. St. Francis, St. Scholastica) and have your child dress up and tell their story.
 - Invite siblings or friends to join in for a saint parade.
 4. Charism Collage – Celebrate the different missions of religious orders.
 - Make a collage of words, images, and symbols representing the different “charisms” (special spiritual focuses) of religious communities (e.g. teaching, healing, praying, and helping the poor).
 - Discuss how each charism builds up the Church.
 5. Crowning Mary at Home – Making their own Rosary will help young ones understand the structure of this beautiful way to pray.
 - Use beads, paper, or cereal to make a large rosary.
 - Pray one decade together and hang it in a special place.
 6. Make Marian Art Together- Express devotion to Mary through art.
 - Paint, or draw, Mary with symbols like stars, roses, a heart, or a crown. Display the artwork in your home or prayer space.
 - Encourage children to title their work (e.g. “Mary, Queen of Peace”).

As an extension activity, read the story of St. Catherine Laboure and the Miraculous Medal. Then let children design their own “medals” on paper or cardboard, choosing a Marian image and message. Hang them in your home or prayer corner.
 7. Create a Patron of Learners Banner – Celebrate the saints who loved to learn and teach.
 - Make a banner with saint images (e.g. St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Catherine of Siena, St. John Bosco).
 - Add short quotes about learning.
 - Hang the banner in your home or school space.
 8. “End-of-Year “Faith and Learning Feast” – Celebrate the growth and hard work of the school year.
 - Host a family meal or picnic to celebrate the end of a semester of school year.
 - Let each child share one thing they learned about the world and one thing they learned about God.