



Diocese of Springfield

Office of the Bishop

October 24, 2024

Reverend Valentine Nworah
Newman Catholic Center
111 Thatcher Road
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

Dear Father Nworah:

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

It has been a quarter century since Pope Saint John Paul II announced Jubilee 2025 at the end of the Great Jubilee of 2000. These two celebrations were linked by the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. As the Universal Church now looks toward the 2025th anniversary of the Word becoming flesh among us, our local Church looks towards unique opportunities for the faithful to obtain Jubilee grace and blessing. Therefore, as part of the Jubilee 2025 celebration of grace:

I hereby declare and decree
the Newman Catholic Center in Amherst
a sacred place-pilgrimage site in the Diocese of Springfield
For Jubilee Year 2025 beginning on Holy Family Sunday, December 29, 2024, until
Holy Family Sunday, December 28, 2025.

As a Pilgrimage Site, the faithful, pilgrims of hope, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage to the Newman Catholic Center in Amherst by devoutly participating in Holy Mass; a ritual Mass for the conferral of the sacraments of Christian Initiation or the Anointing of the Sick; or any of the following: a celebration of the Word of God; the Liturgy of the Hours; the *Via Crucis*; the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the recitation of the *Akathist* hymn or a penitential service that ends with the individual confessions.

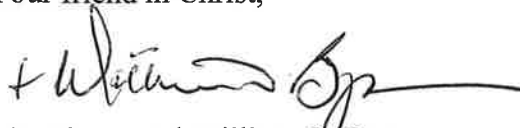
As a designated Jubilee Year Sacred Place, likewise, the faithful can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, individually or in a group, they devoutly visit the Newman Catholic Center in Amherst or any Jubilee site and there, for a suitable period of time, engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form as well as invocations to Mary, the Mother of God, so that in this Holy Year everyone "will come to know the closeness of Mary, the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children" (*Spes non confundit*, 24).

To obtain the Jubilee plenary indulgence, the usual conditions apply: detachment from all sin, sacramental confession, holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. Uniquely during Jubilee 2025, despite the rule that only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day, the faithful who have carried out an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory, if they attend a second Mass that day and receive Holy Communion during that Mass, can obtain the plenary indulgence a second time that same day.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has presented texts of Mass Formularies, Penitential Act invocations, Lectionary readings and the Universal Prayer. These texts are encouraged for use throughout the United States during the upcoming Jubilee Year. With my blessing, I ask you to make frequent use of them at the Newman Catholic Center in Amherst, insofar as the Roman Calendar permits,¹ especially because of the special status the Newman Catholic Center in Amherst will enjoy throughout Jubilee 2025.

With every good wish, I am

Your friend in Christ,



Most Reverend William D. Byrne
Bishop of Springfield



¹ For these texts and the regulations for their use within the Roman Calendar, please see:
<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/votive-masses-and-various-needs/mass-for-the-holy-year>