Most Reverend David Laurin Ricken, DD, JCL



Jubilee Year in Commemoration of the 800th Anniversary of the Death of Saint Francis of Assisi (1226–2026)

DECREE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mindful of the singular witness of *Saint Francis of Assisi*, whose life of evangelical poverty, peace, and love for all creation continues to inspire the Church and the world, and recognizing the significance of the *800th anniversary of his blessed passing into eternal life (October 3, 1226 – October 3, 2026)* to commemorate the Jubilee Year, in accordance with the will of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, which began January 10, 2026 through January 10, 2027.

This observance is currently in progress and shall conclude on January 10, 2027, inviting all the faithful to renewed conversion, deeper discipleship, and joyful witness to the Gospel in the spirit of the il Poverello (the little poor one) of Assisi.

During this commemorative year, the faithful are encouraged to visit any Franciscan conventual church or any place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to Saint Francis or connected with him for any reason and spend a suitable period of time in pious meditation and raise prayers to God in order to:

- Grow in simplicity of life and care for the poor
- Foster peace, reconciliation, and fraternity
- Deepen their commitment to the care of creation
- Renew devotion to the Holy Eucharist and the life of the Church

To assist the faithful in this holy observance and to encourage spiritual renewal, the following sacred place within the Diocese is hereby designated as a pilgrimage site for the duration of this commemorative year:

St. Francis Chapel

Holy Family Convent - 2409 S. Alverno Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220

The chapel shall be open to pilgrims and visitors seven days a week from 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. At this designated site and any other Franciscan site, the faithful may obtain special graces in the form of a plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions through:

- Devout participation in Holy Mass
- Reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father
- Acts of charity, especially toward the poor

Clergy, religious, and lay faithful are encouraged to organize liturgical celebrations, educational events, charitable initiatives, and opportunities for prayer that reflect the charism and legacy of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Parishes, schools, and ministries are invited to highlight themes central to his life:

- Poverty and humility
- Peace and reconciliation
- Love of creation
- Joyful living of the Gospel

Elderly, sick, caregivers, and homebound individuals can receive a Plenary Indulgence if they are free from sin, intend to complete the usual conditions when able, and spiritually join the jubilee celebrations—offering their prayers and daily sufferings to God.

May this Jubilee observance renew within the hearts of the faithful a spirit of holiness, simplicity, peace, and evangelical charity through the intercession of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Green Bay on this 18th day of June, 2026.

✠ David L Ricken

Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay

Tammy C. Basten

Chancellor

DIOCESIS SINUS VIRIDIS
SIGILLUM NOTARII