

# JUNE 2026 PRAYER SERVICE

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## Franciscan Jubilee Year Reminder By Fr. Eli Lopez, USA-SR Spiritual Counselor

For members of **Teams of Our Lady (Équipes Notre Dame)**, the **Jubilee Year** connected with **St. Francis of Assisi** can become a providential grace: a time to deepen what our movement already lives—**marital holiness, covenantal love, Eucharistic life, contemplative prayer, and service in communion with the Church**—and to do it with a specifically **Franciscan “style,”** centered on **conversion, peace, and reverent love for creation.**

- **Draw the Teams deeper into “living relationship with Christ” (Eucharist first)**

**St. Francis, as Pope John Paul II** presents him in the Franciscan context, is a guide back to Christ through an **intense sacramental life, “above all, through constant recourse to the Eucharist.”**

That aligns directly with what **Pope John Paul II** told the Teams: Christian spouses draw strength from the **Eucharist as “a source of Christian marriage,”** and the Eucharistic liturgy invites married couples to live their family life **“after the example of that of Christ who gives himself... out of love.”**

### Concrete Franciscan-Eucharistic applications in the Teams

- Renew the household rhythm around the **Sunday Mass**, treated not as an obligation but as the **“living presence of the Risen Lord”** among His people.
- In team meetings, give special weight to how the Eucharist strengthens **acceptance, pardon, dialogue, and communion of hearts**—because those are exactly the **“courage”** spouses need for daily difficulties.
- Strengthen Eucharistic devotion as a **“Franciscan”** way: Eucharistic life becomes a school of simplicity, gratitude, and self-gift. (This follows the direction given in the Franciscan speech, even though your Teams’ specific practices may vary locally.)

### Let “penance and conversion” become practical in married life

In **Pope John Paul II’s** framing of **Francis and jubilee renewal**, authentic jubilee requires an **“authentic spirit of penance and conversion.”**

Even more specifically, jubilee preparation for the faithful is described as needing **conversion and penance without which there can be no authentic jubilee** (spoken in the context of Our Lady of Lourdes/Fatima as preparation for the Jubilee year).

### Concrete applications for Teams couples

- Treat confession not as occasional crisis-management but as a **jubilee discipline**: a regular return to the mercy that makes pardon and reconciliation real. (This follows the universal link between conversion/penance and jubilee renewal stated in the Church’s jubilee context.)
- In the home, practice **“penance”** in Franciscan terms: fewer excuses, more truth, more repair. This fits **Pope John Paul II’s** call to answer the Lord’s appeal to **“repair”** His house by active collaboration with the Church.

- Make reconciliation a central fruit of Eucharistic life: **Pope John Paul II** connects the Eucharist with the courage for **pardon** and **dialogue** in family life.

### **“Repair His house” through communion with pastors (not parallel spirituality)**

Franciscan jubilee language is not only about personal spirituality; it also includes building the Church. **Pope John Paul II** applies Francis’s appeal—“**repair**” his house—to a responsibility: “**effectively collaborating with the Bishops and priests.**”

That is also consistent with how the Church encourages ecclesial movements: they are to be received and to live in **communion and collaboration** with the local Church.

### **Concrete applications for Teams at the parish/diocese level**

- Strengthen your fidelity to local pastoral life: participate in the sacramental and pastoral life of the parish/diocese rather than remaining only inside movement activities. (This is aligned with the Church’s repeated teaching that ecclesial groups help formation and integration into the sacramental life of the Church.)
- Engage bishops/priests through respect and cooperation: “**repairing**” the house can mean supporting evangelization and formation initiatives that are local and pastoral, not merely “**movement-centered.**”
- Cultivate the apostolic fruitfulness your founder promoted—especially the emphasis on **contemplative prayer**—so that your witness is not only organizational but **spiritual and ecclesial.**

### **Be peacemakers in the covenant—peace at home, peace in society**

**St. Francis’s peace** is not an abstract ideal. **Pope Leo XIV** presents Francis as a messenger whose peace echoes in an age marked by wars and internal divisions, and teaches that peace is a gift from above that must be “**welcomed and lived every day.**”

**Pope John Paul II** explicitly calls Francis’s followers to “**Be peacemakers**” and to be “**promoters of the dignity of every person,**” so that each person is respected and loved as a brother/sister in Christ.

### **Concrete applications for Teams couples**

- Make peace *familial*: the Eucharist gives spouses courage for acceptance and communion, which are the concrete forms peace takes in marriage.
- In disagreements, treat dialogue not as debate but as a Eucharistic fruit: aim for communion of hearts, not victory.
- Extend peace outward: the Teams already witness that marriage is a visible sign of communion between God and His people; Franciscan peace supports that witness by promoting dignity and brotherhood.

### **Honor creation as part of Franciscan witness (and therefore as part of Christian family life)**

**Pope John Paul II**, in the Franciscan jubilee framing, urges witnesses to “**a new and deeper respect for the goods of nature.**”

**Pope Leo XIV** likewise teaches that **Francis’s peace** embraces the entire family of creation, stressing inseparability between **peace with God, peace among humans, and peace with creation.**

## Concrete applications for Teams

- Choose family practices that embody reverence for creation (education, simpler consumption, respect for the vulnerable who are most affected by environmental harm). The Church's direction is clear; the specific works can be tailored to your local context.
- Make environmental care part of moral formation: it supports the broader idea that Christian witness must be coherent—spiritual life expressed in real choices.

## Let Mary be the “model and guide” of your response to vocation

Pope John Paul II ends his Franciscan reflection by placing the movement under Mary's intercession as “**model and... guide,**” asking her to obtain “***light and strength... so that you may generously respond to your vocation.***”

That fits naturally with Teams spirituality, which already has a **Marian tone** in its title and charism, and which aims at holiness integral to marital and family life.

## Concrete applications

- Renew a Marian focus in team prayer: entrust marital vocation, forgiveness, and peacebuilding to Mary's maternal guidance.
- Ask for docility to God's plan in the ordinary realities of family life, because that is precisely what Pope John Paul II describes as the generous response to vocation.

## Summary

For Teams of Our Lady, the Franciscan Jubilee can be lived as: **(1) deeper Eucharistic life, (2) concrete penance and conversion, (3) real “repair” of the Church through collaboration with pastors, (4) Franciscan peace made visible in marriage, (5) reverent care for creation, and (6) confident Marian guidance**—all aimed at lived covenant fidelity and holiness.

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## READING OF SCRIPTURE:

### John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

## **A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:**

### **SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:**

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

### **PRAYER INTENTIONS:**

- Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.
- The team should respond at the end of each person's turn, for example, "Lord, hear our prayer".

### **LITURGICAL PRAYER:**

**Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20**

***Response: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.***

*Glorify the Lord, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion.  
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you.*

***Response: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.***

*He has granted peace in your borders;  
with the best of wheat he fills you.  
He sends forth his command to the earth;  
swiftly runs his word!*

***Response: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.***

*He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.  
He has not done thus for any other nation;  
his ordinances he has not made known to them. Alleluia.*

***Response: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.***

### **CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:**

**ALL:**

**+Lord Jesus, you called Christian spouses to be a visible sign of the Covenant between God and the human person, and between Christ and the Church.**

**In this Franciscan Jubilee Year, we ask you to rekindle in the Teams of Our Lady a living faith and a missionary charity, so that our homes may become places where your peace is welcomed and lived each day.**

You are the source of Christian marriage; strengthen us by drawing near to you in the Eucharist, so that we may learn from the Eucharistic Liturgy—your self-gift in love—how to live our marital and family life after your example.

Grant us the courage of acceptance and pardon, the grace of dialogue, and the communion of hearts, so that in the daily trials of family life we may find not discouragement but reconciliation.

Make us steadfast in prayer and contemplation, that we may not become isolated, but open our hearts to the love of God and to the brothers/sisters we are called to serve.

Teach us to be peacemakers—unarmed and disarming witnesses of your victory over death—so that peace with God, peace among human beings, and peace with creation may become inseparable realities in our lives.

St. Francis of Assisi, our brother, intercede for us: you who sought peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to find in Jesus the source of reconciliation that breaks down every wall; you who crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding without weapons, give us courage to build bridges; help us to become peacemakers in our families, our neighborhoods, and the Church.

Our Lady, Mother of the Magnificat, obtain for us light and strength to respond generously to our vocation, and keep us faithful to our mission of holiness in marriage and family life.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**DEEP POOLING:**

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

**SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:**

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The “endeavors” are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.