



Jubilee 2025: pilgrims of hope

Archbishop Maurizio Bravi

Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the UNWTO
Delegate for Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Conclusion – The Holy Year 2025: a year of hope

The holy year 2025, therefore, will be dedicated to hope! In the Judeo-Christian tradition, hope is not generated primarily by anguish over the negativity of the present or even by an unrealistic optimism about the future. Christian hope, which is always accompanied by faith and charity, is a virtue, that is, “a habitual and firm disposition to do good”. As we read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), hope “responds to the aspiration to happiness that God has placed in the heart of every man; it assumes the expectations that inspire the activities of men; purifies them to order them to the kingdom of heaven; safeguards against discouragement; supports in all moments of abandonment; dilate the heart in expectation of eternal bliss. The impulse of hope preserves from selfishness and leads to the joy of charity” (n. 1803). It is worth remembering that Pope Francis dedicated no less than 38 catechesis of the Wednesday general audience to this virtue, from 7 December 2016 to 25 October 2017.

Thus, the Romea pilgrim embodies this virtue and becomes the itinerant symbol of the fundamental (ontological) condition of the human being, of his fragile “finiteness” which, however, yearns for fullness and fulfilment. Man has always sought this fulfillment and it is what configures the hope of being able to reach it. He knows that his life is a journey on the fleeting scene of this world and wishes to fill that sense of incompleteness that belongs to every creature.

The pilgrim is thus an “unfinished being”, a person who is in search of what he feels he lacks in order to realize the desire for full humanity. The journey then, between the desire for the goal and the effort to reach it, is the allegory of a tension of a different nature, which starts from self-knowledge and leads to the source of its natural creaturehood: God!

These sentiments must help us understand and live the richness of the jubilee of 2025, a great “spiritual and ecclesial” event but at the same time of a “social”, cultural, and historical nature. In announcing the extraordinary jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis recalled that “pilgrimages are a special sign of the Holy Year, because they are an icon of the journey that each person takes in their existence. Life is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim who travels along a road to the desired destination” (Misericordiae Vultus, n. 14).

I am sure that the Romea Strata, as it is anchored to the practice and idea of pilgrimage – the ideal force of its activities – will be able to unite these dimensions and reinvigorate its identity as via romea, putting in place those appropriate initiatives that attract the interest of a large audience.



Fondazione Homo Viator – San Teobaldo

Corso Fogazzaro, 254 – 36100 Vicenza
Tel. +39 0444 327146 – info@romeastrata.it
www.romeastrata.org