



MISSIONARIES of HOPE

BENEFACTORS - VOLUNTEERS - PRAYER INTERCESSORS - STAFF - UNITED IN MISSION

PILGRIM CENTER of HOPE | Guiding people to Christ since 1993

Directors' Column

Greetings! The ship of Pilgrim Center of Hope continues to go into the deep! As you may be aware of our logo; the ship with an open sail people standing onboard, the Chi-Rho before the Ship representing Christ, and the Star above representing Mary, Mother of God, leading the Church through prayer. We often recall the words of Pope St. John Paul II; *Put out into the deep*, taken from Luke 5:4; as he was calling the Church to a new evangelization during his pontificate. In his document *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, he urged the faithful to move beyond fear and deepen

Continued on back pg.



Meet Our People

Pilgrim Center of Hope (PCH) is blessed with the friendship of **Lea Kochanek**, who is most popularly seen at our monthly Socials with the Saints events. She recently shared this behind-the-scenes glimpse of our museum exhibition "Who Is the Man of the Shroud?" for which she serves as a Shroud Ambassador:



"Each time I turn on the overhead light above each exhibit panel in anticipation of visitors, I am re-taking my journey with the Shroud, recalling the history of the Shroud and the suffering of the Man whose image it bears. This is especially so when I turn on the light behind the life-size negatives and the (372) scourging wounds on the front and back of the Man of the Shroud are apparent. (No matter how many times I have seen it, I am deeply moved each time that light comes on.)

"With every brief introduction to the exhibition that I present to a visitor/s, I am aware that I am preparing that person/group for a unique experience, one that will change him/her, perhaps even in a profound way. As I pray to the Holy Spirit to guide and touch each visitor as they journey through the exhibition, I am reminded of the power of seeing and experiencing the replicas of the instruments of torture and the authentic replica of the Shroud itself, and I am humbled."

Lea applies her extensive professional experience in communications and development as a member of the PCH Advisory Council. Most recently, she has brought PCH Socials with the Saints to the Archdiocese of San Antonio's northeast region, through her parish involvement at **Church of the Good Shepherd in Schertz**. This monthly series in 2026 is inspiring dozens of folks seeking hope at each event. Thank you, Lea, for your outstanding service!

Are you being called to serve this mission with your gifts?
Visit PilgrimCenterOfHope.org/Support or call 210-521-3377 to learn more.

Mark Your Calendar

Mass for Our Mission

1st Weds. Monthly @ 9:30am
per priest availability; call or
check our website to confirm.
Come pray with us in our Chapel.

Socials with the Saints

Thur., Apr. 16 @ 2pm - PCH
Tue., Apr. 28 @ 2pm - Schertz
St. Gemma Galgani

Thur., May 21 @ 2pm - PCH
Tue., May 26 @ 2pm - Schertz
Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

See our calendar for the full list!

Unique Morning Retreat

Sat., May 2, 2026
@ 9:30am-12:30pm
Reflect at Pilgrim Center of Hope
on **Mary's Healing Gaze** with
a presentation, time for prayer,
and spiritual tools for daily life.
Register \$25 on our website or
call us: 210-521-3377.

Major Events

Fri. & Sat., July 24-25, 2026
Mother of Hope Marian
Conference
The Boeing Center at Tech Port

Sat., Sep. 19, 2026
Rejoice In Hope! Fundraiser
Embassy Suites San Antonio Landmark

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 30-31, 2026
Celebrate the Saints!
Relic Veneration & Saint Celebration
Pilgrim Center of Hope



Events Calendar
PilgrimCenterOfHope.org/Events



MOTHER OF HOPE
Marian
CONFERENCE

Friday & Saturday
July 24-25, 2026

SAN ANTONIO, TX | BOEING CENTER @ TECHPORT
Former Location of Kelly AFB

National Speakers **MEET MARY, A MOTHER
JESUS GAVE YOU**

OUR LADY OF CHAMPION: U.S. MARIAN APPARITION

THE ROSARY: A SPIRITUAL MASTERPIECE ...& MORE!

PLUS | HOLY MASS | EUCHARISTIC ADORATION SERVICE | SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
| VENDORS | MUSIC | SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBIT - MEDITATE WITH OUR LADY OF SORROWS |



Every registration rate includes 2-Day Admission, Boxed Lunch & Bottled Water, Attendee Bag with Rosary gift

Individual \$95

Married Couple \$175

Ave Maria Individual \$150

Total for two tickets when
registering together.

Pays for you, plus a donation
to support the ministry.

Youth (14-18) \$50

Under 18 must be accompa-
nied by adult guardian

Student with ID \$50

High school, Higher ed

TOTAL

\$

Clergy and Religious: No fee.
To register, please call in advance.

NAME

POSTAL ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE*

EMAIL Please write clearly. Event announcements will be sent here.

CHURCH

Meal Restriction (circle one): Vegetarian | Gluten-free

CARDHOLDER NAME as it appears on card

CARD #

EXP. DATE SECUR. CODE SIGNATURE

MotherOfHopeConference.com

OR submit form & payment to:
Pilgrim Center of Hope
7680 Joe Newton, San Antonio, 78251



*By registering with a phone number, you agree to receive periodic promotional text messages from Pilgrim Center of Hope. You may opt out.

2025

PILGRIM CENTER of HOPE IMPACT REVIEW



The Jubilee Year 2025 themed “Pilgrims of Hope” was Pilgrim Center of Hope (PCH)’s time to shine, and a memorable year that saw the election of the first American pope! The PCH staff updated our mission statement for clarity, focusing on action: **Pilgrim Center of Hope provides Catholic events, experiences, and media; initiating a desire in people to encounter Jesus Christ in their daily journey of life.**

- Our unique **Jubilee Journey Passport** booklet program helped families and individuals grow in hope; encouraging them to partake in events and activities through Pilgrim Center of Hope. Several other dioceses and organizations contacted us for the template, inspiring their own ‘passport’ programs!
- PCH is now a Strategic Partner of **Visit San Antonio**, the official tourism & meeting vendor for the City of San Antonio; including a listing on their website and app, increasing awareness of PCH for locals and visitors alike.
- Through the Catholic Community Foundation, Pilgrim Center of Hope established an **endowment fund** to secure this ministry’s future; accepting stock gifts in addition to cash, check, credit card and DAF/QCD gifts.

HOPE THRU AUTHENTIC PILGRIMAGES



Italy Pilgrimage

“Like a 12-day retreat”

- Javier



St. Paul Pilgrimage

Highlights of our 2025 Jubilee Year pilgrimage journeys included an audience with the newly-elected Pope Leo XIV in St. Peter’s Square, and a rare opportunity to meet a saint’s parents! Father Steven Gamez is pictured here with the **mother of St. Carlo Acutis** on Carlo’s feast day. Our group venerated Carlo’s relics in Assisi. *Saint Carlo, ora pro nobis... Pray for us!*

“It was amazing to be in those sites where St. Paul lived and preached, to have knelt down and prayed at St. John the Apostle’s tomb, and couldn’t believe that I saw and stepped into our Blessed Mother’s home in Ephesus! ...Awesome catechesis and lots of opportunities for deepening our prayer life” - Julie



IGNITING HOPE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our 2025 Catholic Men's Conference, Catholic Women's Conference, and Catholic Seniors' Conferences provided personal encounters with Christ, fellowship, education and encouragement for a deeper prayer life and inspiration to lead one's own community and family.

Additionally, we added two saint relic veneration events at Pilgrim Center of Hope for the Jubilee Year, resulting in conversions and opportunities for families to find hope and interior healing!

27 evangelizing events at Pilgrim Center of Hope property such as presentations and day retreats in 2025:

- Served **839** participants
- Ages from elementary school children to the elderly
- Participants included single laity, families, clergy, parish staff and ministry leaders, and Archdiocesan staff

36 evangelizing events outside Pilgrim Center of Hope property such as parish missions and presentations in 2025:

- Served **over 3,442** participants
- Ages from elementary school children to the elderly
- Included urban & rural areas in the Archdiocesan boundaries, as well as presentations in Dallas and Yorktown, TX

...Multiply each life touched by PCH to see the impact on families, parishes, and communities!



"What will you be immediately implementing in your life that you have learned from attending this event?"

Discerning my vocational journey
- Megan (young adult)

More regimented prayer
- Anonymous Male (young adult)

...moments of silent reflection that Jesus is with me. That I am not alone.
- Christina (young adult)

...to serve without complaining
- Linda (age 40-49)

Regular appointments with the Divine Physician
- Anonymous (age 40-49)

...looking at and improving my relationship with my earthly father.
- John (age 50-59)

Attend a weekly Mass, more prayer
- Anonymous Female (age 50-59)

I have applied to join our Pastoral Council - Lita (age 60-69)

Focus more on my family life.
- Anonymous Male (age 60-69)

Review my habits and see if they are well directed... Am I a true and good leader? - Deacon J. (age 70-79)

Prayer and confession
- Anonymous Female (age 70-79)

HOPE IN NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST

Our Shroud of Turin outreach introduces a mysterious cloth bearing the image of a scourged, crucified man



Connecting with Christ's Passion & Resurrection

Who Is the Man of the Shroud? exhibition

Over 1,326 visitors of diverse ages, backgrounds, and religious identities had signed our museum guestbook as of the last day of 2025. **199** came to PCH for **group presentations and retreats** that included time learning about the Shroud. Reactions included shock, curiosity, fascination, and tears of penance and awe.

Presentations outside PCH share Jesus' story in today's language, inspiring hope & faith

26 presentations brought Christ's Passion alive to **over 2,584** individuals outside Pilgrim Center of Hope in 2025, in both religious and secular environments including Bexar County Jail and San Antonio College. Among the fruits of these was the conversion of a woman who had walked into our Journey with the Shroud presentation at Northwest Vista College. She then came to PCH, saw the exhibit, and told us, "I want to become Catholic!"

PCH Shroud Ambassador Nan Balfour presented at the **Shroud of Turin International Conference & Symposium** at the Augustine Institute in St. Louis, MO, about PCH's outreach with the Shroud in evangelization, and Mary Jane Fox, DCHS, presented to the **Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre's Southwest Regional Convention**.



2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage included a Shroud presentation at El Camino de San Antonio's Pilgrimage Center followed by a walk to Mission Concepción for Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Shroud exhibition additions in 2025 included:

- Museum audio guide devices & narration
- 4 new trained Shroud Ambassadors

Our 2025 Media Spread Hope!



Monthly
Newspaper
Columns



Weekly
Radio
Broadcasts



67
Podcast
Episodes



8,135
Audio
Downloads



58,291
Video
Streams



...plus
thousands
following
(and sharing!)
our hope-filled
content
on major
social media
platforms
and
monthly
email newsletters

81% increase
vs. 2024

20% increase
on YouTube
vs. 2024



Recommended Programs to Hear

Journey to Priesthood w/ Bishop Gary Janak and Local Seminarians

Lectio Divina: Praying with the Bible, God's Word w/ Fr. Rafael Becerra González

Friendship Does Not End with Death w/ Deacon Tom and Mary Jane Fox



Scan to browse our weekly podcast, *Journeys of Hope*. Episodes are also available on our YouTube channel.

More Ways You Inspired Hope in 2025



More volunteers 'jumped aboard'!



Rejoice In Hope goal: 100% raised!



- ✓ Replaced old projection system
- ✓ Purchased new, mobile touchscreen

Our staff calls it 'Carlo,' after Saint Carlo Acutis!



You provided a refrigerator + 12 monthly lunches for our missionary staff.

PLUS... Did You Catch This News?

In 2025, we opened a virtual shop on our website!



MOTHER OF HOPE

Marian

CONFERENCE



example panel

GRANT A WISH!

Several items on our Wish List need sponsorship. Can you help?



Shroud/Holy Face Items

- \$15 – 300 Leaflets
- \$35 – 100 Holy Face Medals, Silver
- \$55 – Shipping Cost of Items
- \$70 – 200 Holy Face Medals, Gold
- \$225 – Our Lady of Sorrows Banner

Chapel Items

- See our website for number needing sponsorship
- \$50 – Chapel Flowers
- \$50 – Our Lady of Guadalupe Candle
- \$50 – St. Joseph Candle for the Faithful Departed

Mary/Marian Items

- \$100 – Autumn Meet Mary Video Production
- \$100 – Winter Meet Mary Video Production

Sponsor Levels for 2026 Conference include:

- \$1,250 Hospitality sponsor for 2026 Conference — *Two needed*
- \$2,500 Speaker sponsor for 2026 Conference — *Four needed*
- \$2,500 Audio-Visual sponsor for 2026 Conference — *Two needed*
- \$2,500 Venue sponsor for 2026 Conference — *Five needed*
- \$5,000 Supporting sponsor 2026 Conference — *One needed*
- \$10,000 Major sponsor for 2026 Conference — *One needed*

Scan to donate, or visit PilgrimCenterOfHope.org/Wish-List
If you submit a donation, indicate "for (Item Name)!" Thank you!



ATTENTION, ALL MINISTRIES, GROUPS, PARISHES, SCHOOLS...

Get Featured On the Big Screen

This history-making conference in San Antonio July 24-25 will transform the BOEING CENTER BIG SCREEN into a giant, digital 'tapestry' dedicated to Our Lady!

If you participate in Our Lady's Tapestry—demonstrating unity under Mother Mary—your panel will highlight:

1. Your logo / Organization name
2. Work of Marian sacred art
3. Title of Mary special to you

...during event breaks on the Boeing Center Big Screen, as well as before & after each day's events.

Be Included In the Program

By participating, your organization & contact information will be listed in the Program Booklet...a great way to attract members, as attendees go forth inspired with new Marian devotion!

Deadline to Apply: June 24, 2026



DONOR TIP

As the first quarter of the year completes, you may be considering ways to reduce your tax burden for next year while continuing to support Pilgrim Center of Hope and other nonprofits you care about.

To date, we have gratefully accepted gifts of cash, checks, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from IRAs, and grants from Donor Advised Funds. We are now pleased to share that we also accept gifts of publicly traded stock.

By donating appreciated stock instead of selling it, **you may avoid paying capital gains tax.** If you have held the stock long-term and itemize deductions, you may also be eligible to take a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift.

Feel free to contact Ann Gonsalves or Maurina Renda on our staff to learn more: 210-521-3377.



PILGRIM CENTER *of* HOPE

7680 Joe Newton

San Antonio, Texas 78251

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Directors' Column, continued from front

their commitment to Christ as we grow in hope. The imagery of the boat in motion with these words have encouraged us at Pilgrim Center of Hope to remain steadfast in faith, focusing on the mission given to us 33 years ago.

For over a year, we have been praying and discerning about organizing a Marian Conference focusing on introducing the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in the Church at a two-day event in San Antonio. After meeting with others, and through this time of prayer, it has become a reality. The first Marian Conference in 25 years in San Antonio will happen on July 24-25, 2026! From 1990–2000, the Marian Center of San Antonio hosted a Marian Conference at the former Municipal Auditorium with over 3,000 in attendance; and it bore fruit. The Catholic Women's Conference began shortly after; followed by the Catholic Men's and Seniors' Conferences. The time has come to have another; one conference for all, as an invitation to *Go to Mary!* to discover her role in our lives, in the life of the Church, and how she can become a part of every life through her maternal intercession and mercy. Don't miss this special opportunity; be a part of history as we raise our eyes to Mary! She will lead us closer to her Son, our Savior. She is the patroness of the United States of America, and as

the U.S. celebrates its 250th anniversary this July; may we ask her intercession for our Nation.

Friends, many events are available for you either here at Pilgrim Center of Hope, at parishes, or otherwise in the community. Our Shroud mission is certainly going into the deep, as more parishes, schools and organizations are calling for *A Journey with the Shroud* presentation. Visit PilgrimCenterOfHope.org/Events to see what's available!

Continue to support this mission. Encourage people to visit our website and learn about Pilgrim Center of Hope. Thank you.

Deacon Tom Fox, KCHS

Mary Jane Fox, DCHS

Founders and Directors

This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is the time to preach it from the rooftops. Do not be afraid to break out of comfortable and a routine modes of living in order to take up the challenge of making Christ known in the modern metropolis. –Pope St. John Paul II