

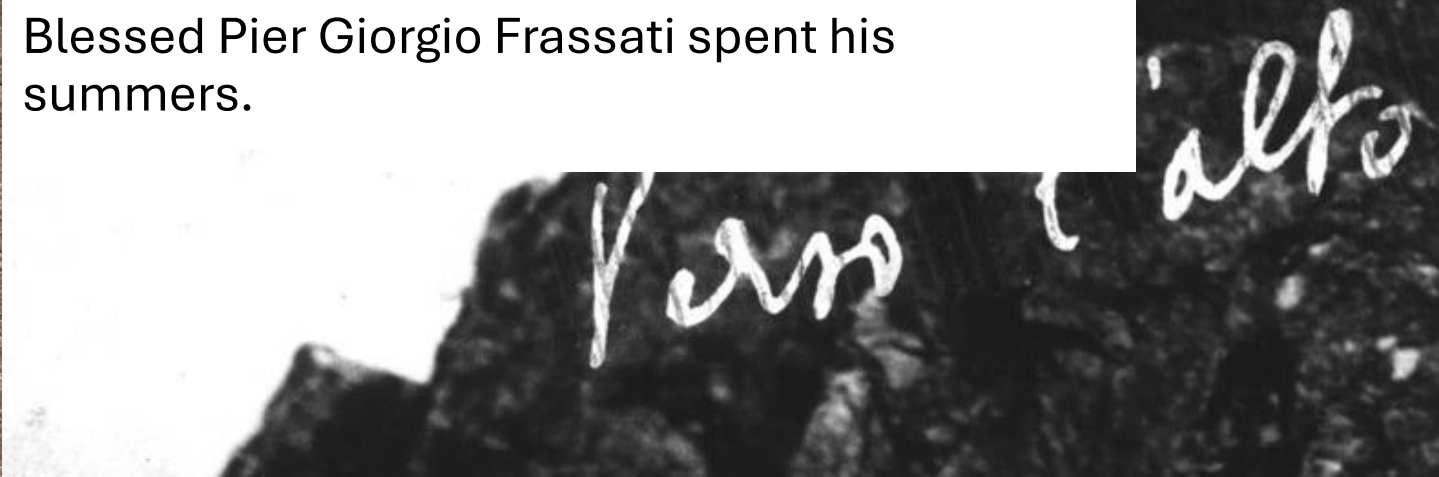


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# Southern Diocese Environmental network

Pope Francis letter for lent 2025

Pictures from area round Pollone where  
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati spent his  
summers.



# Dear brothers and sisters

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent  
in faith and hope ...

...as we share in the grace of the Jubilee  
Year, I would like to propose a few  
reflections

on what it means to *journey together in  
hope,*

and on the summons to conversion that  
God in his mercy addresses to all of us,  
as individuals and as a community.





# **First of all, *to journey***

The Jubilee motto, “Pilgrims of Hope”, evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus.

This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them.

It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

# First Call to conversion

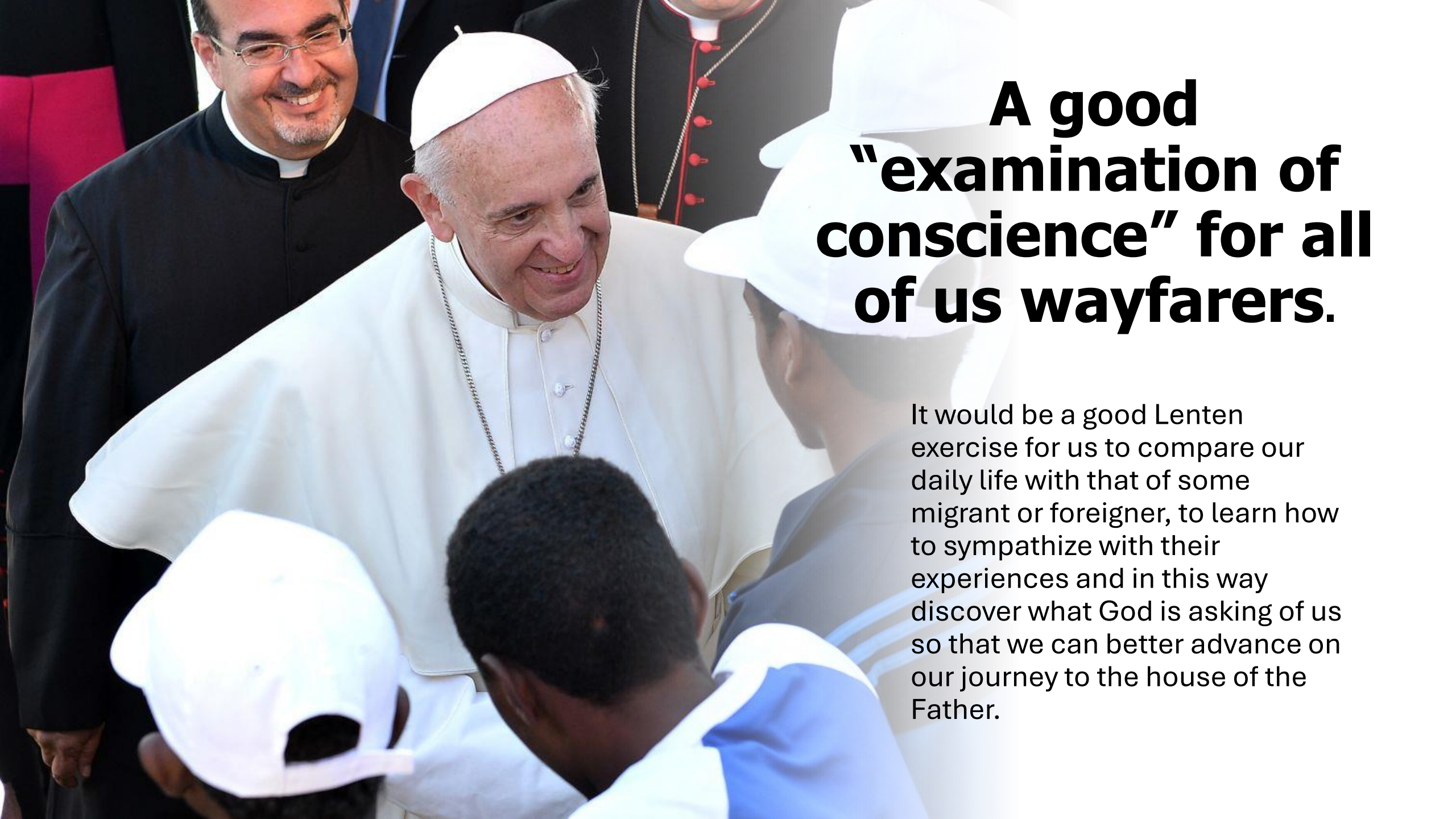
A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact.

Am I really on a journey,  
or am I standing still, not moving,  
either immobilized by fear and  
hopelessness

or reluctant to move out of my comfort  
zone?

Am I seeking ways to leave behind the  
occasions of sin  
and situations that degrade my dignity?





# **A good “examination of conscience” for all of us wayfarers.**

It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father.



# Second, to journey *together*.

The Church is called to walk together, to be  
synodal

Christians are called to walk at the side of  
others,

and never as lone travellers.

The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-  
absorbed,

but to leave ourselves behind

and keep walking towards God and our  
brothers and sisters.

Journeying together means consolidating the  
unity grounded in our common dignity as  
children of God

(cf. *Gal*3:26-28).

# Walking Together

It means walking side-by-side,  
without shoving or stepping on others,  
without envy or hypocrisy,  
without letting anyone be left behind or excluded.

Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards  
the same goal, attentive to one another in love and  
patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine  
whether in our lives,  
in our families,  
in the places where we work and spend our time,  
we are capable of walking together with others,  
listening to them,  
resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and  
to think only of our own needs.





# **A summons to synodality.**

Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others.

Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far.

Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance.

This, then, is a second call to conversion



# Third, let us journey together *in* *hope,*

**for we have been given a promise.**

*May the hope that does not disappoint*  
(cf. Rom 5:5),

let the central message of the Jubilee, be  
the focus of our Lenten journey towards  
the victory of Easter.





# As Pope Benedict XVI taught us in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*,

“the human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (*Rom8:38-39*)”.

Christ, my hope, has risen!

He lives and reigns in glory.

Death has been transformed into triumph,  
and the faith and great hope of Christians rests  
in this: the resurrection of Christ!

# The third call to conversion

A call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life.

Let us ask ourselves:

Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins?

Or do I act as if I can save myself?

Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it?

Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history

and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity,

to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?





Sisters and brothers,  
thanks to God's love in Jesus Christ, we are  
sustained in the hope that does not disappoint  
(cf. *Rom 5:5*).

Hope is the  
“sure and steadfast anchor of the soul”

It moves the Church to pray for

“*everyone to be saved*”

(*1 Tim 2:4*)

and to look forward to her being united  
with Christ, her bridegroom,  
in the glory of heaven.





## The prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila:

“Hope, O my soul, hope.

You know neither the day nor the hour.

Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly,  
even though your impatience makes doubtful

what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one”

*(The Exclamations of the Soul to God, 15:3).*

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope,  
intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten  
journey.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 6 February 2025 Memorial  
of St Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs.*

*Franciscus*

