

Hope 'is a Gift That Comes Directly From God' Pope Francis

As we begin a new year, we do so with hope in our hearts – hope in God, hope for one another, hope for our torn and suffering world, hope for the universe which is evolving according to God's plan. Let us listen to the words of Pope Francis, words to inspire, comfort and challenge us to be bearers of hope as we go forward into a year of promise ...

Each of us needs hope in our lives, at times so weary and wounded, our hearts that thirst for truth, goodness and beauty, and our dreams that no darkness can dispel We say that hope is a theological virtue. It does not emanate from us, it is not an obstinacy we want to convince ourselves of, but it is a gift that comes directly from God". Pope Francis.



Song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZasFKB6ZTQ&list=RDjDpC1EB0oDg&index=3>

Readings:

1. But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

2. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

3. I realized like never before, that to 'build hope' is a very different thing than just 'having hope'. We are challenged to awaken and to build hope. Today, we can BUILD HOPE while moving forward into the future in our changing world.

Pat St. Louis, CSJ

Reflection:

Take time to reflect on your own meaning for HOPE in this world which is crying out for hope ...

Play soft music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mA7Rny1BLJA>

Let us bring our intercessions before our Loving God:

For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Church.

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year may strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climate change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

For migrants fleeing their homes

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, may find welcome, hope and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

Let us Pray: Creator God, help us to understand more deeply this mysterious reality called "hope," which comes only as a gift from you. Continue to stir up hope in our hearts. May it find a home in us and room to grow so that our life may speak of one long season of hope.

