



# PILGRIMS OF HOPE

## WITH MARY AND ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT



### Fifth handout ... getting back on the streets

#### KNOW

In addition to finding hope in God's grace, we are also called to **discover** hope in the *signs of the times* that the Lord gives us. As the Second Vatican Council observed: "In every age, the Church has the responsibility of **reading the signs of the times** and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. In this way, in language adapted to every generation, she can respond to people's persistent questions about the meaning of this present life and of the life to come, and how one is related to the other" (GS 4). We need to **recognize the immense goodness** present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, **ought to become signs of hope**.

(FRANCIS, *Spes non confundit*, 7)

## LISTEN TO THE WORD



### Listen to the Word of the Lord from the letter of saint James (1:22-27)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do. Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

## ENTER THE WORD

The Pope does not limit himself to “talking” about hope, but invites us to **make it concrete**, in the places and areas where it most needs to be lived, with signs that attest to its effectiveness. The list that is proposed deserves to be remembered. In this way we avoid the risk of stopping only at the announcement of hope, remaining within a theoretical horizon, without feeling the need for **direct involvement**. [Peace, full yes to life, attention to prisoners, the sick, the young people, the migrants, the exiles, the refugees, the elderly, the poor].

## RESPOND TO THE WORD

## From Psalm 126 (125)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
“The Lord has done great things for them”.

The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping,  
carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
carrying sheaves with them.

## BE CHALLENGED BY THE WORD

- How do I look at the reality in which I live? Am I able to discover the good that exists all around?
- The Holy Year moves on quickly... How am I thinking to make it continue in my life?
- In which of the areas listed by Pope Francis can I help to place some signs of hope?



## BE ACCOMPANIED BY MONTFORT

### *Hymn 7, 18-21: The solidity of Hope*

Grace only do I seek  
And the blessings of eternity  
And I scorn the passing show  
As the purest vanity.

It is foolhardy and absurd  
To trust the waters to hold you up.  
Creatures are fickle  
Like the water and the reeds.

Woe to the man, God said himself,  
Who puts his trust in the flesh;  
In life he is accursed,  
At death he tumbles into hell.

Man lasts but an instant,  
Like a breeze we cannot grasp,  
He is like comely foam,  
Only fools trust in its support.

## PRAY THE WORD

May the God of all consolation place your days in his peace and grant you the gifts of his blessing. May he fill you with faith, hope and charity, so that your life on earth may be rich in good works, and you may reach the joy of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord.