



# PILGRIMS OF HOPE

## WITH MARY AND ST. LOUIS DE MONT- FORT



### Third handout Hopes or Hope?

#### KNOW

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often, we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope.

(FRANCIS, *Spes non confundit*, 1b)



## LISTEN TO THE WORD

Let us listen to the Word of the Lord  
from the letter of Saint Paul  
to the Romans (8:31-39)

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## ENTER THE WORD

We talk too little about hope. Without falling into rhetoric, we should first distinguish between *hopes and hope*. Perhaps, the reference to daily hopes is easier and more immediate because it arises spontaneously, while hope risks bordering on utopia and is therefore more eclipsed. **Leading life on hopes, however, is risky.** By closing ourselves in the circuit of the immediate, it is inevitable that hopes prevent us from looking to the future as an expectation of fulfillment, a typical characteristic of hope. It is necessary,

therefore, to open our gaze towards a horizon of different meaning which is not limited to the "now" and the "immediate", but is capable of placing ourselves in a state of waiting with due vigilance. And yet, every time we try to describe its reality, it seems that hope escapes any possible identification... "**Christ Jesus, our hope**" (1Tm 1:1). In this simple expression, the apostle shows the heart of Christian existence. It is based on the event "**Jesus Christ**".

(MONS. RINO FISICHELLA)

## RESPOND TO THE WORD

## From Psalm 16

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.  
I say to the Lord: "You are my Lord;  
**apart from you I have no good thing**".

Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;  
you make my lot secure.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
**surely, I have a delightful inheritance.**

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.

I keep my eyes always on the Lord.  
With him at my right hand, **I will not be shaken.**

Therefore, my heart is glad  
and my tongue rejoices;  
my body also will rest secure.

## BE CHALLENGED BY THE WORD

- I make a short list of things that concern me most right now ...
- Am I able to say, "You are my Lord, apart from you I have no good thing"?
- I turn to Christ my only Hope ...



## PRAY THE WORD

O God, hope and light of those who seek you with a sincere heart, grant us to raise a prayer pleasing to you and to always exalt you with the service of praise. Through Christ our Lord.

## BE ACCOMPANIED BY MONTFORT

### *Hymn 7, 10-13: The solidity of Hope*

The many priceless blessings  
God showers upon you every day  
Are certain motives  
For trusting in his help.

Can hope ever be flighty  
In what God himself has promised?  
His word he keeps,  
He is the best of friends.

Whoever has put his trust in God  
Has never been confounded,  
God has given overplenty,  
And man has always more  
obtained.

I make a soul unshakable  
Like a tower, like a rock,  
The most fearsome foe  
Cannot make it budge.