

June 9, 2020

This week I would like to focus on the gift of **HOPE**... a **gift** God has given us that enables us not just to hold on, but to have **inner peace**, even during a pandemic and social unrest. With Covid19 and racial riots, it is the gift of **Hope** that keeps us moving forward. Why? Because our **hope** is not in ourselves, it is in God. It is God's **gift** to us, not something we earn.

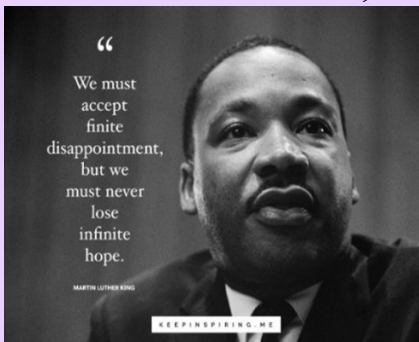


Hope is believing that God **will** see us through whatever challenges we are facing right now in our *personal lives* as well as in the *world*. As believers, we are called to **trust** in God's divine plan for each of us and for our world.

And just what is this gift of **HOPE**? It is **not** optimism or merely a desire or wish, it is **confident assurance** rooted in God's promise and God's faithfulness. Listen to Jesus words:" Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me". Are you able to do this? Remember St. Paul's words: I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." So, **you can**.

Hope is the light at the end of a tunnel. It not only makes the tunnel endurable; it fills the heart with anticipation of the world into which we **will** one day **emerge**. Hope enables us to be patient during this pandemic and social unrest so that we can grow in faith—which is the hope of things **unseen**... and become a **new creation**. Is that not what **we** are creating right now....a new world? Yes, we are all invited to participate in **forming a new creation**. What a privilege!

Since I'm a teacher, I think it's time for a **quiz**:



- How are you doing with **quiet moments**, minute pauses that give you a little breathing space in your day and allow you to check in with the Lord? How about one right now?
- Any new, interesting things on your **grateful list**? I've added breezes, cloud formations and **chocolates**!
- How are you doing with your **smiles**?

Once again, prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude are being offered for you each day, your patients and family. Thanks for "gifting" St. Mary's with your presence. Hopefully, I will be able to do the same soon.