

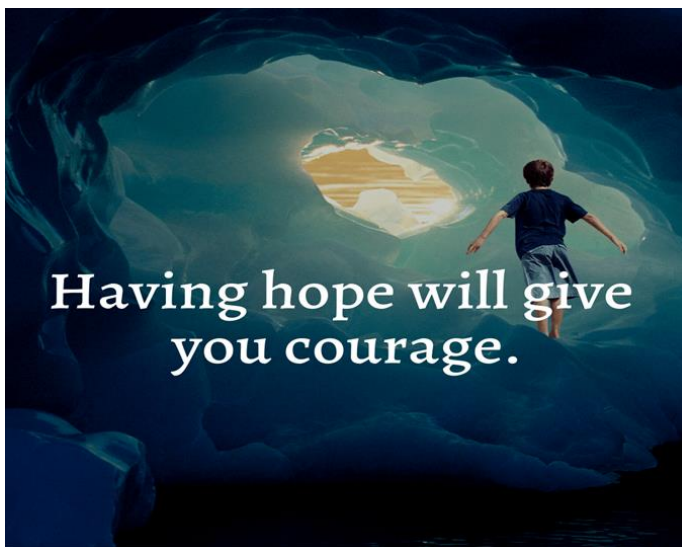
Hope Gives Us Courage

Hope is the ability to find meaning and indirectly life in a world that is surrounded by challenges and negativities.

St Paul in Corinthians 15:58 says, “Therefore my beloved brethren, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”.

St Paul encourages us to rise above the challenges and difficulties in our world and renew our commitment of bringing hope to the hopeless in our various apostolates.

We live in a world of suffering people. Poverty is a reality around us and in the lives of the people we work and interact with. Many are living in hopeless situations, and it is to these that we are called to bring hope.



We desire that in our different apostolates and endeavors we might sow seeds of hope by the way we live, serve and interact with people.

As our charism states, no matter how difficult life maybe there is always hope, there is resurrection. Sisters, it is in our nature to want

to grow, to change, and to expand our life experiences. Everyone desires to have a positive outcome that will make life better. For many of us hope motivates and encourages us to push forward in our most challenging moments. Think of the disciples before they encountered the Risen Lord; they lived in fear, they had no courage to go out. Therefore, fear can stop us on our way whereas, hope provides us with the courage to take the necessary steps forward.

Sisters, even if our labour seems to be useless and people do not appreciate what we do for the Lord, our labour is never in vain. It does not matter if we get praise or not,

our duty is to do what the Lord asks of us. This is the only way we can nurture and embrace hope, when life appears to be hopeless. This in turn will give birth to courage to face our lives with its demands.

Reflecting on the moments we felt the absence of hope in our lives; we tended to give up under the immense weight of difficult circumstances, asking ourselves: *what is the point?* In moments like this, hope provides the motivation to dig a little deeper and intentionally search for the cause and solution to our problems. Hope gives us courage to face ourselves as we are and to have confidence and trust in God and what we are doing for him.

As St Paul encourages the community of Corinth to be **firm, steadfast, and fully devoted to the work of the Lord**, we too, should not hesitate to do likewise for hope gives us courage to face all these things. Hope is a grace and a gift which comes from God. Hope is a belief that everything will work out. It allows us to find calm in the roughest waters. The disciples received this gift of HOPE when they encountered the Risen Christ and came out from their hiding places to start their work, going out into the cities to preach without fear about what they had witnessed.

Therefore, hope gives us courage to believe that our lives could be different. It allows us to stay calm when life becomes challenging and seems to be impossible; when everything seems to be working against us, even then, we strive to stand firm in our hope. So, Sisters, like Mother Bernarda, we too strive to remain **hope filled and trust in Divine Providence. May Mother Bernarda, Fr Theodosius and all the deceased Holy Cross Sisters continue to intercede for us and for the mission of Christ, because HOPE URGES US FORWARD.**

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