



Reflection: Marking 2025 Year of Hope

And not only that, but we boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given us. (Romans 5.3-5)

On the evening of December 24, 2024, Pope Francis inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee of Hope - an event taking place every 25 years.

He exhorted us, *With haste, let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, our hearts joyful and attentive, ready to meet him and then to bring hope to the way we live our daily lives. For Christian hope is not a 'happy ending' which we passively await, but rather, a promise, the Lord's promise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs.*

The Pope also reminded us of the meaning of this year-long prayer, witness and service, *This is the season of hope in which we are invited to rediscover the joy of meeting the Lord. The Jubilee calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation.*

As members of the faith community, we believe we live in God and God lives in us and we have a reason to have hope. We only have to kindle the virtue of hope that is within us all.

Not matter of faith alone, our journey to holiness is to be accompanied by good works. As such, we are called to respond to God's saving love by actively engaging in charity and good works. As Vincentians, we are asked to faithfully live our Society's mission of charity and justice.

How then do we help bring our neighbours-in-need and those at the margin hope when they confront and ride through poverty, debasement and isolation?

Words of comfort... our undivided attention... phone call to follow-through their needs... sometimes persistent efforts to reach out... reassurance of their dignity... tough conversations... a gentle nudge... feeling of being connected to their family's well-being... encouragement to stay focused... their stories being listened to and understood... shared joy and concerns. Few gestures of kindness – simple and costing us nothing – they animate optimism and courage, helping them to open their minds to new possibilities and explore opportunities to thrive. As fellow creations, they, too, possess the virtue of hope. We are all Pilgrims of Hope.

God speaks in our neighbours' pain and anguish, and beckons us Vincentians to be participants and witnesses to His hope-giving joy and healing.



Reflection Questions

1. How do you stay hopeful in very difficult situations? Two months into the new year, what aspects of your future are you most hopeful for in 2025?
2. How do you bring hope to those people who may be driven to despair and despondency? What does it take for you to offer hope to people you barely know?

Let us pray... By Your grace, Lord, make us true and faithful hope-givers to our neighbours-in-need. Help us clearly see ways of lifting our neighbours-in-need out of the depth of messiness and isolation, walking alongside to get them to a better place. May we as Vincentians bond more in our commitment to serve those most in need and help kindle the virtue of hope that is within them.

Jose I. Torres, National Spirituality Committee Chair

For those interested in contributing spiritual reflections, please email jose.torres@rogers.com.

Also, for reflections that may be used in your group meeting's spirituality segment, please check out: [Monthly Reflections - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada](#)