



A weekly reflection by members
of the Precious Blood Community

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Janet Patterson

"True hope is trusting that what we have, where we are, and who we are is more than enough for us as creatures of God," Thomas Merton



I was recently blessed to spend time in conversation with some folks about the Jubilee Year of Hope. Our topic was "Becoming Pilgrims of Hope." Of course, there was conversation about holy doors and plenary indulgences, but our overarching concern was how to make this year of Jubilee influence how we live the rest of our lives.

How do we become the signs of hope that Pope Francis called all of us to in the Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee? How do we live out his call to demand dignified conditions for prisoners, respect for their human rights, the abolition of the death penalty? How do we become anchors of hope for the sick, the young, migrants, the elderly, and the poor?

How do we share the goods of the earth with everyone?

And most of all, how do we live in the tangible hope of God's promise?

Our modern English interpretation of the word "hope" implies uncertainty...I hope everything will turn out all right. The virtue of hope, however, is not a doubt but an assurance that is grounded in the unchanging character of God. Hope is rooted in the covenant relationship that dates to the time of Moses and Abraham. It is the promise of deliverance and restoration that holds us even in the troubles of our modern world.

Today's responsorial psalm promises that "The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works...faithful in all his words and holy in all his works...lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down...just in all his ways and holy in all his works...is near to all who call upon him..."

This is the promise of hope. May we believe it. May we live it. May we be it for others.

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This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family.

Feel free to share it with others. Would you like to write a reflection?

If so, please contact Vicky Otto at votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org