

Doctrinal Overviews

Details of each theme can be found in the papal bull.

Introduction

The Papal Bull, *Spes non Confundit*, which announced this year's Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*, calls us to set out on a journey of spiritual renewal, reconciliation, and deepening of our faith. It is set out under the key themes of Word of Hope, Journey of Hope, Signs of Hope, Appeals for Hope, and Anchored in Hope. "Word of Hope" outlines the deep connection between God's love and our salvation, while "Journey of Hope" uses the idea of pilgrimage to describe the Christian life as an ongoing journey towards God. "Signs of Hope" asks us to look for and recognise God's presence in the world, and "Appeals for Hope" urges us to embody and enact God's love as we seek to address global challenges and injustice. Finally, "Anchored in hope" makes clear that true hope is anchored in Christ's promises of eternal life.

The following doctrinal overview guides us toward a deeper understanding of the Papal Bull and the theological essence of this year's Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*.

Word of Hope

Introduction

"Word of Hope" emphasises the profound connection between God's love and the hope offered through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It highlights how hope is grounded in Christ's sacrifice and is continually strengthened through the Holy Spirit.

- 'Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: "For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life" (*Rom 5:19*)...By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope.' (*Spes non confundit* #3)
- CCC #457 'The Word became flesh for us *in order to save us by reconciling us with God*, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins": "the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world", and "he was revealed to take away sins"' (1 Jn 4:10; 4:14; 3:5).
- CCC #458 'The Word became flesh *so that thus we might know God's love*: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." (1 Jn 4:9) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."' (Jn 3:16)

The "Word of Hope" maintains that true hope is grounded in God's love, manifested through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ's sacrifice reconciled all humanity with God and opened the door to salvation, offering us hope for eternal life. We are called to recognize God's love, both in Christ's sacrifice and in the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens and illuminates our faith.

Summary: Hope originates from God's love, especially as revealed through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. This Paschal Mystery is the foundation for salvation, offering us enduring hope.

Journey of Hope

Introduction

“Journey of Hope” portrays the Christian life as a pilgrimage, an active process of reflection and growth. It highlights that hope, sustained by God’s grace, guides us through our spiritual journey toward salvation, with each step marked by faith, charity, and perseverance.

- ‘This interplay of hope and patience makes us see clearly that the Christian life is a *journey* calling for *moments of greater intensity* to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps towards the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus... *Pilgrimage* is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life.’ (Spes non confundit #5)
- ‘Now the time has come for a new Jubilee, when once more the Holy Door will be flung open to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ ... We are about to make a pilgrimage marked by great events, in which the grace of God precedes and accompanies his people as they press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope’ (cf. *1 Thess 1*; Spes non confundit #6)
- ‘Christians have hope not through their own merit. If they believe in the future, it is because Christ died and rose again and gave us his Spirit.’ (Pope Francis, Vices and Virtues: Hope
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2024/documents/20240508-udienza-generale.html>)

"Journey of Hope" describes our Christian experience as an ongoing journey of growth and encounter with God's grace, ultimately ending with eternal life with God. This journey is filled with moments of intensity and struggle, often symbolized by pilgrimage, wherein we rediscover the values of silence, simplicity, and prayer. Our hope in this journey is sustained by God's grace and the firm belief in Christ's redemptive work. We are called to “press forward firm in faith, active in charity and steadfast in hope” (Spes non Confundit #6; cf. *1 Thess 1:3*) as we journey toward life eternal.

Summary: The Christian life is a journey marked by encounters with God’s grace, where hope is nourished and sustained as we move toward salvation, exemplified through pilgrimage and moments of spiritual intensity.

Signs of Hope

Introduction

“Signs of Hope” encourages us to recognize the presence of God’s mercy and goodness in the world, despite suffering and adversity. It calls for us to discern and respond to positive signs of hope, which point to God's active work in humanity and the need for peace, justice, and mercy.

- “In every age, the Church has the responsibility of reading the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel” (Gaudium et Spes, 4) ... We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the

yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.' (Spes non confundit #7)

- 'The first sign of hope should be the desire for *peace* in our world... (Spes non confundit #8).
- *signs of hope for those experiencing hardship, prisoners, sick, young, migrants, displaced, refugees, elderly (ADAPTED from Spes non confundit, #8-15).
- 'I would like to invite all people of good will to rediscover the power of mercy to heal wounded relationships and to restore peace and harmony to families and communities.' (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 50th World Communications Day (24 Jan 2016)
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications/documents/papa-francesco_20160124_messaggio-comunicazioni-sociali.html)

"Signs of Hope" invite us to recognize the presence of God's goodness and mercy in the world. The Church, called to interpret "the signs of the times" (Gaudium et Spes, 4), urges us to see hope in signs such as the world's desire for peace and response to the needs of the marginalized. This hope points to God's active presence, healing relationships and fostering peace in a broken world.

Summary: We are called to recognize signs of hope in the world, especially in the yearning for peace, love and mercy offered for those in need, as evidence of God's love, mercy and presence.

Appeals for Hope

Introduction

"Appeals for Hope" stress the necessity for action in addressing global challenges and alleviating suffering. It calls for a response to injustice through generosity, solidarity, and practical measures that foster peace, and seek to build a more just and harmonious world.

- 'Echoing the age-old message of the prophets, the Jubilee reminds us that *the goods of the earth* are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone. The rich must be generous and not avert their eyes from the faces of their brothers and sisters in need. ... More than a question of generosity, this is a matter of justice. ... If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry.' (Spes non confundit #16)
- "Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention".
(*Meeting with Authorities, Civil Society and the Diplomatic Corps*; Fratelli Tutti #11)

"Appeals for Hope" emphasise that addressing global challenges and promoting peace requires concrete actions such as justice, generosity, and solidarity. The Jubilee reminds us that the earth's resources are meant for all, calling on the rich (people and nations) to share and on all to seek justice. Hope is found wherever suffering is eased, injustice overcome, and a more loving

world built. We are challenged to act in response to the cries of those in need, bringing the transformative power of hope to the world.

Summary: We are called to address global challenges with justice, generosity, and solidarity, actively building a world of peace and charity through concrete actions that respond positively to human suffering.

Anchored in Hope

Introduction

"Anchored in Hope" presents hope as a stabilizing and guiding virtue for us, providing confidence amidst life's struggles. Hope, in conjunction with faith and charity, directs us toward eternal life, offering strength and assurance that God's promises will be fulfilled.

- 'Hope, together with faith and charity, makes up the triptych of the "theological virtues" that express the heart of the Christian life (cf. 1 Cor 13:13; 1 Thess 1:3). In their inseparable unity, hope is the virtue that, so to speak, gives inward direction and purpose to the life of believers.' (Spes non confundit #18)
- "'I believe in life everlasting". So our faith professes. Christian hope finds in these words an essential foundation. For hope is "that theological virtue by which we desire...eternal life as our happiness". (Catechism of the Catholic Church,1817; Spes non confundit #19)'
- 'The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope...Christian hope consists precisely in this: that in facing death, which appears to be the end of everything, we have the certainty that, thanks to the grace of Christ imparted to us in Baptism, "life is changed, not ended", (Roman Missal, *Preface I for the Dead*) forever...The Jubilee... offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama.' (Spes non confundit #20)
- 'The image of the anchor is eloquent; it helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. The storms that buffet us will never prevail, for we are firmly anchored in the hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ and to overcome sin, fear and death. This hope, which transcends life's fleeting pleasures and the achievement of our immediate goals, makes us rise above our trials and difficulties, and inspires us to keep pressing forward, never losing sight of the grandeur of the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (Spes non confundit #25).

"Anchored in Hope" explores hope as a theological virtue that offers stability, security, and direction in life. This hope is anchored in the promises of God, particularly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Christian hope enables us to face life's many challenges and adversities with confidence, anchored in the eternal promise of salvation.

Summary: Hope anchors us in the promises of God, empowering us to face adversities with confidence and focus on eternal life with God.

Additional Doctrinal Themes

Introduction

Various themes such as reconciliation, conversion, and the role of the Pilgrim Church are explored throughout the Papal Bull, focusing on their relationship to hope. Reconciliation is a key element, with the Jubilee offering us a time for spiritual conversion and transformation. Conversion, as an ongoing process of turning away from sin and towards God, is essential in fostering hope. The image of the Pilgrim Church reminds us of our mission to proclaim the Gospel as we journey in hope with and towards our loving God.

Reconciliation

- ‘A Jubilee year is a sign of reconciliation because it establishes a “favourable time” (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:2) for conversion. We are called to put God at the centre of our lives, growing toward Him and acknowledging His primacy’ (Jubilee Website: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segni-del-giubileo/riconciliazione.html>)
- ‘God’s justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus the Cross of Christ is God’s judgement on all of us and on the whole world, because through it he offers us the certainty of love and new life’ (Misericordiae Vultus #21).

Conversion

- CCC#1427 ‘In the Church’s preaching this call is addressed first to those who do not yet know Christ and his Gospel. Also, Baptism is the principal place for the first and fundamental conversion. It is by faith in the Gospel and by Baptism (Cf. Acts 2:38) that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life.’
- CCC#1431 ‘It entails the desire and resolution to change one’s life, with hope in God’s mercy and trust in the help of his grace.’
- ‘It follows that Christian conversion demands reviewing especially those areas and aspects of life “related to the social order and the pursuit of the common good”’ (*Ecclesia in America; Evangelii Gaudium, # 182*).

The Pilgrim Church

- ‘By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives. Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love’ (Spes non confundit #3).
- [CCC #769](#) "The Church . . . will receive its perfection only in the glory of heaven,"¹⁷⁹ at the time of Christ's glorious return. Until that day, "the Church progresses on her pilgrimage amidst this world's persecutions and God's consolations."¹⁸⁰ Here below she knows that she is in exile far from the Lord, and longs for the full coming of the Kingdom, when she will "be united in glory with her king."¹⁸¹ The Church, and through

her the world, will not be perfected in glory without great trials. Only then will "all the just from the time of Adam, 'from Abel, the just one, to the last of the elect,' . . . be gathered together in the universal Church in the Father's presence."[182](#)

Summary: Doctrinal themes like reconciliation, conversion, and the “Pilgrim Church” (Spes non confundit #3; Cf, Evangelii Gaudium #111) emphasise the transformative process of faith, where we are continually called to renew our commitment to God, growing in hope through the Church’s mission.

Saints and Mary

Introduction

Saints and Mary serve as models of hope, guiding us through their exemplary faith and devotion. Saints exemplify the hope grounded in Christ's life, while Mary, the Mother of the Savior, offers a powerful symbol of hope, interceding for humanity and pointing toward our eternal salvation in and through Jesus her son.

- ‘The saints were able to make the great journey of human existence in the way that Christ had done before them, because they were brimming with great hope.’ (Spe Salvi # 39)
- ‘Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by—people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way. Who more than Mary could be a star of hope for us? With her “yes” she opened the door of our world to God himself; she became the living Ark of the Covenant, in whom God took flesh, became one of us, and pitched his tent among us’ (cf. Jn 1:14). (Spe Salvi # 49)
- ‘The hope born in her (Josephine Bakhita) which had “redeemed” her she could not keep to herself; this hope had to reach many, to reach everybody.’ (Spe Salvi #3)

Mary

Introduction

The role of Mary in salvation history is explored as a profound example of faith and hope. As the Mother of Jesus, she embodies trust in God's plan, offering us a guiding light toward salvation and an example of purity, humility, and faithfulness.

- ‘The Sacred Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testament, as well as ancient Tradition show the role of the Mother of the Saviour in the economy of salvation in an ever clearer light and draw attention to it. The books of the Old Testament describe the history of salvation, by which the coming of Christ into the world was slowly prepared. These earliest documents, as they are read in the Church and are understood in the light of a further and full revelation, bring the figure of the woman, Mother of the Redeemer, into a gradually clearer light. When it is looked at in this way, she is already prophetically foreshadowed in the promise of victory over the serpent which was given to our first parents after their fall into sin.(284) Likewise she is the Virgin who shall conceive and bear a son, whose name will be called Emmanuel.(285) She stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from Him. With her the exalted Daughter of Sion, and after a long expectation of the promise, the times are fulfilled and the new Economy established, when the Son of God

took a human nature from her, that He might in the mysteries of His flesh free man from sin.’ (Lumen Gentium # 55)

The Saints and Mary serve as exemplars of hope, having journeyed through life in faith, inspired by Christ’s light. Mary stands as a star of hope for us, offering guidance through her "yes" to God. Her role as the Mother of the Savior places her at the centre of the Christian experience, demonstrating the profound hope that leads to salvation.

Summary: The Saints and Mary are beacons of hope, exemplifying faith, perseverance, and trust in God's promises, with Mary standing as the first among disciples and a symbol of hope for us, pointing us towards salvation.

Faith

Introduction

Faith is the theological virtue that binds us to God, forming the foundation of our Christian life. It involves not only belief in God’s revelation but also an active commitment to living out that faith, which inspires hope and motivates actions that seek to transform the world for the better.

- CCC #1814 ‘Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God."²⁸
- CCC #1816 ‘The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it’
- ‘Faith is the substance of hope.’ (Spe Salvi #10)
- ‘An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it’ (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 183).
- (Faith, Hope and Charity) ‘can be lived out only thanks to the gift of God... Because those who have faith have a force within them that is beyond merely human; indeed, faith “triggers” grace in us and opens the mind to the mystery of God.’ - Pope Francis Catechesis on Vices and Virtues: Faith 2024
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2024/documents/20240501-udienza-generale.html>

Faith, as a theological virtue, is essential to Christian life, involving belief in God and trust in His promises. It is through faith that believers commit their whole selves to God, accepting His truth and guidance. Authentic faith is never solely personal but leads to a desire to transform the world and spread God’s love. Hope is closely linked to faith, as it shapes the believer’s vision of eternal happiness and motivates actions that align with God’s will for the common good.

Summary: Faith is the foundation of Christian life, calling us to trust in God’s truth and act with a desire to transform the world, always accompanied by hope for eternal life.

Hope

Introduction

Hope is a key theological virtue that sustains us as we anticipate the fulfillment of God’s promises, especially eternal life. It lifts us beyond our present, ‘even if it is arduous’ (Spe salvi

#1) and inspires trust in Christ's salvation, guiding us toward a future rooted in God's love and providence.

- CCC #1817 'Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.'
- CCC #1818 'The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.'
- CCC #1820 'Christian hope unfolds from the beginning of Jesus' preaching in the proclamation of the beatitudes. the beatitudes raise our hope toward heaven as the new Promised Land; they trace the path that leads through the trials that await the disciples of Jesus. But through the merits of Jesus Christ and of his Passion, God keeps us in the "hope that does not disappoint."⁹⁸ Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul . . . that enters . . . where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf."⁹⁹... Hope is expressed and nourished in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire.'
- 'Our hope is always essentially also hope for others; only thus is it truly hope for me too [40].' (Spe Salvi #48).
- 'To come to know God—the true God—means to receive hope.' (Spe Salvi #3)

Hope is the theological virtue that drives us to long for eternal life and to have trust in the promises of God. It sustains us in times of difficulty. Hope is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ, particularly His Passion and resurrection, and it is sustained through prayer. Christian hope is not only for personal salvation but extends to others, reflecting the communal nature of hope in the body of Christ. This hope anchors believers' hearts, leading us toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

Summary: Hope is the virtue that sustains us, rooted in the promises of Christ, guiding us toward eternal life and opening our hearts to love and serve others along the way.

Charity

Introduction

Charity is the ultimate Christian virtue, defined by love of God and neighbour. It calls us to live selflessly, reflecting Christ's love for humanity. Charity is not only about acts of kindness but also about fostering deeper relationships with God and others, promoting unity and peace.

- CCC #1822 'Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God.'
- CCC #1823 'Jesus makes charity the *new commandment*.'⁹⁶
- CCC #1825 'Christ died out of love for us, while we were still "enemies."¹⁰⁰ The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbour of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself.'¹⁰¹

Charity, the highest of the theological virtues, involves loving God above all things and loving others for His sake. It is through charity that we live out the commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves, including loving even our enemies. Charity is the basis for peace, justice, and solidarity, and it directs us to care for the most vulnerable, as Christ did. It is through charity that hope becomes tangible in the world, as it leads to acts of love and service that reflect God's love for all.

Summary: Charity is the virtue of loving God and others selflessly, serving as the foundation for peace, justice, and solidarity, and making Christian hope visible through acts of love and service.

Redemption / Salvation

Introduction

Redemption and Salvation are integral to Christian hope, offering us assurance amid life's challenges. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are offered the hope of eternal life, where present struggles are framed within the horizon of salvation, making the journey worthwhile.

- 'Redemption is offered to us in the sense that we have been given hope, trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present: the present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey.' (Spe Salvi #1)

Redemption and salvation, through the death and resurrection of Christ, offer us a trustworthy hope that transforms how we live in the present. This hope enables us to endure hardship, knowing that eternal life with God makes the struggles of the journey worthwhile.

Summary: Redemption through Christ offers us hope for salvation, providing us with the strength to endure life's hardships and trust in the fulfillment of God's promises for eternal life.