

The Promise

The Hope of the Promise

Hope is trust in another extended into the future. The promise of Jesus makes hope possible. Our “yes” to His promise makes hope actual. Mary, the Mother of Christians, makes our hope strong. Our hope is this: Jesus is with us...and will be with us.

Discussion Questions

1. While love is clearly an important part of the marriage promise, Father Mike claimed that hope was even more important. What do you think of this? In what ways is he right? In what ways might you disagree with this?
2. Pope Benedict XVI talked about “greater” and “lesser” hopes. These can be the daily things we desire and long for. What are some of these that you have? In these, have you fallen into the two traps of “impossible” or “automatic”?
3. Many people have believed the “promise” that the future will automatically be better than the past. Has this false promise ever affected your life in a negative or positive way? Discuss.
4. Hope is placing one’s trust in the promises of Christ. His promise is “I am here. And I will be here.” How does this promise affect your life? Discuss.
5. We pray for the grace of a happy death; that, at the hour of our death we get the object of our hope...God Himself forever. Where are you with this kind of prayer? Discuss.

God in Real Life

1. Commit to praying to the Blessed Virgin Mary for the grace of a happy death. This enables a person to walk with hope in the promise and live with joy.

To the Heart

“Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.”