

THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES ...

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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. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." "The Holy Spirit he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."

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

Healing Prayer

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deep faith in my heart dear Lord, I will abide in your word that instructs me, comfort me and sustain me as I serve you. Deepen my faith in you in times of trials and afflictions. May I manifest the gift of faith in my daily living and in my works. Amen.

O Divine Wisdom, I rejoice in Your precepts and commands for they are just, trustworthy, full of mercy and good fruits. Lord Jesus, You have said, "Everything is possible to one who has faith". Dear Lord, "I do believe. With lively faith in Your love and mercy, I pray for the gift of strong faith in Your people to withstand and overcome our daily trials and struggles to follow You in peace and charity. You are truly everything we need and want. In You, with You and through You, we have our being. Help us to be grateful for the many gifts You have given us but most of all, the gift of Yourself in Holy Communion. May we receive You with great faith each time we approach Your holy altar to take Your Body and Blood worthily, frequently and fervently. In Your unfathomable mercy, Lord Jesus, I pray with Mother Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, all the angels and saints. Amen.

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. Christian hope takes up and fulfills the hope of the chosen people which has its origin and model in the *hope of Abraham*, who was blessed abundantly by the promises of God fulfilled in Isaac, and who was purified by the test of the sacrifice. "Hoping against hope, he believed, and thus became the father of many nations."

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." Hope

**"As the
Father has
loved me,
so have I
loved you;
abide in
my love."**

is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul that enters where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf." Hope is also a weapon that protects us in the struggle of salvation: "Let us put on the breastplate of faith and charity, and for a helmet the hope of salvation." It affords us joy even under trial: "Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation." Hope is expressed and nourished in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire.

We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will. In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere "to the end" and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ. In hope, the Church prays for "all men to be saved." She longs to be united with Christ, her Bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. CCC 1817-1821

CHARITY is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Jesus makes charity the *new commandment*. By loving his own "to the end," he makes manifest the Father's love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive. Whence Jesus says: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love." And again: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Fruit of the Spirit and fullness of the Law, charity keeps the *commandments* of God and his Christ: "Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love." Christ died out of love for us, while we were still "enemies." The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself.

"If I have not charity," says the Apostle, "I am nothing." Whatever my privilege, service, or even virtue, "if I have not charity, I gain nothing." Charity is superior to all the virtues. It is the first

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of the theological virtues: "So faith, hope, charity abide, these three. But *the greatest of these is charity.*"

The practice of all the virtues is animated and inspired by charity, which "binds everything together in perfect harmony"; it is the *form of the virtues*; it articulates and orders them among themselves; it is the source and the goal of their Christian practice. Charity upholds and purifies our human ability to love, and raises it to the supernatural perfection of divine love.

The practice of the moral life animated by charity gives to the Christian the spiritual freedom of the children of God. He no longer stands before God as a slave, in servile fear, or as a mercenary looking for wages, but as a son responding to the love of him who "first loved us":

The *fruits* of charity are joy, peace, and mercy; charity demands beneficence and fraternal correction; it is benevolence; it fosters reciprocity and remains disinterested and generous; it is friendship and communion: Love is itself the fulfillment of all our works. There is the goal; that is why we run: we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest. CCC 1822-1829



Servant's Prayer

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Jesus, present and alive in the Sacrament of Love, you said to your apostles; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons and strengthen the weak. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.

You are my hands, my heart, my voice and my feet.

Go forth and become fishers of men.

Offer your time, talent and treasure to those in need.

Spread my word and proclaim my Eucharistic Kingdom.

Abide in my love and remain in my word so you will have eternal life.

Here we are O Lord, ready to do your will. Amen.

Prayer Requests

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28)

Lord, we lift up to you all prayer intentions of our brothers and sisters who need your healing love and presence, especially those petitions we received through <http://EucharisticLove.org>, <http://2000HailMarys.org> and individual forms submitted during our community services.

Healing Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thank you for the gift of faith that you poured upon the hearts of my parents and their ancestors. That faith is handed down to me since I was baptized and sealed in your name. It is the same faith that you gave the prophets in the olden times. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God. By faith we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior who died on the cross for forgiveness of sins. With

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HEALING THROUGH THE HOLY EUCHARIST

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ACTIVITY	WHEN	VENUE
Healing Service with Eucharistic Celebration	Every First Monday of the month 8:00 PM	Resurrection Parish - St. Bridget Church
Healing Service with Eucharistic Adoration	All other Mondays of the month 8:00 PM	Resurrection Parish - St. Bridget Church
2000 Hail Mary's with Eucharistic Celebration	Every last Saturday of the month 8:30 AM	Resurrection Parish - St. Bridget Church
Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration	Every second Saturday of the month 9:00 AM	Resurrection Parish - St. Bridget Church
	Every Monday before 2000 Hail Mary's 8:30 PM	

[HTTP://EUCCHARISTICLOVE.ORG](http://EUCCHARISTICLOVE.ORG)

[HTTP://2000HAILMARYS.ORG](http://2000HAILMARYS.ORG)

Resurrection Parish - St. Bridget Church • 372 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302