

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
St Brigid & St Patrick
August 8, 2021

The Real Presence: Profession of Hope
(Part Two of a Three-Part Series)

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Just as we saw how every human being has faith, every normal human also has hope. Hope in general is the confident desire of obtaining some future good that is difficult to obtain. Consequently, it is a desire, which implies seeking and pursuing some future good that is not yet possessed but wanted. Hope and fear are correlatives. We hope for some future good, and we fear a future evil. Hope is confident that what is desired will certainly be attained. Therefore, hope is the opposite of despair.

As with faith, there is human hope and divine hope. Human hope is the confident desire of obtaining some future good from human beings, and that's what we live on. But divine hope is not natural; it is supernatural. It is the confident desire of obtaining from God two things: (1) the Heaven which He promised to those who serve Him faithfully and (2) the necessary means to reach this eternal destiny.

Like divine faith, divine hope is impossible without the grace of God. First we need God's grace to trust that He will give us the graces we need to reach heaven. But then we need God's grace to be confident He will bring us to Heaven, provided we are faithful in doing His will. The greatest danger to our hope in God's promises is the memory of our own infidelity. In other words, we are confident God will give us what He promised, but the measure of our confidence is the degree to which we know we have been faithful. Heaven indeed requires divine grace, but it is not enough to obtain the grace to reach Heaven. We must also cooperate with that grace.

We now ask "How are we to profess our hope in God's promises as revealed in the Real Presence?" As St. Paul tells us, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." Our hope is only as strong as our faith. Our hope is only as confident as our faith is sound. Our hope is only as courageous as our faith in God and His goodness is unshakable. Believing people are hopeful people. Unbelieving people are hopeless people.

What does faith tell us about the Real Presence? It tells us God so loved the world that He became Man and died on the cross to redeem us by His blood. Faith also tells us that on the night before He died, that same God who became man chose to change bread and wine into His own living self, the Incarnate God. We believe God became man not only to die on the cross, but also to be with us, near us, next to us, and when we receive Him in Holy Communion, within us. Not to hope in this God whom faith tells us has loved us so much would be madness!

We should note that Christ's contemporaries in Palestine had more evidence for their belief than we do. They could see a man who walked, talked, ate, drank and got tired. But they still had to believe that this man was God. Our faith is twice tested; we don't even see a man! We see what looks like bread or tastes like wine, and we believe that behind these appearances is a man; and that this man is the Incarnate God.

Faith tells us that this same Jesus, who said, "Have confidence, I have overcome the world," is here on earth giving us the same message today, assuring us that He will provide the help we need in this life. Whatever it is, He promises to give us all we need to cope with the trials of this world and the light and strength we need to reach our eternal destiny in Heaven.

Unlike human hope, divine hope may be painful! Even in symbolic language, anybody in his right mind knows that Heaven is above, not below. We don't get to Heaven by sheer gravity. Nobody falls into Heaven; we have to climb there. But the secret of professing our hope in Christ's promise is to believe Jesus is here in this valley of tears, precisely to enable us to cope with the trials of life and not be afraid that He will leave us on our own. This is exactly what the Real Presence means. It means God became Man, and the Incarnate God is now here with us to reassure us that we are not alone.

That's the terror in life: "I'm alone, and I'm afraid!" But Christ in the Real Presence has a real heart that we believe is beating with a love for us. All we have to do is come to Him. Christ in the Eucharist is saying, "That's why I'm here, so that you may come to me!" The Lord and Master of the universe who is waiting for us.

In the last analysis, what is the reason for discouragement or dread of not reaching Heaven? It is fear of ourselves. We know ourselves too well. We know our weakness and sinfulness and instability, and we're all afraid. But that is why God became Incarnate and dwells with us in the Blessed Sacrament — that we might look confidently to our Heavenly home and trust peacefully in the strength that only He, Our Eucharistic Lord, can give us. This is the abundant blessing found in coming to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and professing our hope in His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Jim Dunnigan, Patty Durand, Lori Hill, Millie Laxdal, John Christianson, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Jane Zidon, Marla Zidon, Rex Grill, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoi, Oliver Goodoi, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski, Donald Denault, Gary Olson, Fr. Finnestad, Joan Kerian.

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sun at 8:00 am. **Adoration with Confessions:** Sat at 8:00 am. **More Confessions:** Sun 8:00 am. **Aug Church Cleaners:** Mary Wild, Nick & Molly Wild, Marilyn Olafson. **Collection:** Don & Duane (Aug 8); Paul & Blanca (Aug 15). **Reader:** Tom (Aug). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Gladys Currie (Aug 8); Tim & Linda O'Toole (Aug 15). **Sacristan:** Mary T (Aug 8); Duane (Aug 15). **Rosary:** Melissa (Aug 8); Mary T (Aug 15)

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS

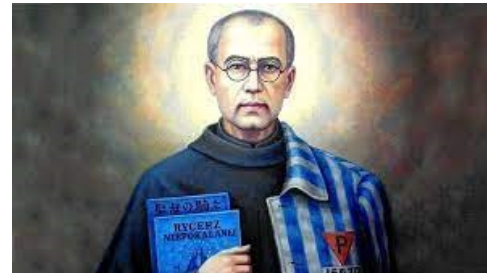
Pray the Rosary: Sun at 10:00 am. **Adoration with Confessions:** Wed & Fri at 11:00 am; **More Confessions:** Sat 4-5:00 pm, Mon 5-5:15 pm. **Aug Church cleaners:** G-K. **Collection:** Scott & ME Kirking (Aug 8); Lynette & Cathy (Aug 15). **Readers (Aug):** Sat-Brian; Sun-Matt. **Rosary:** Larry C (Aug). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Larry & Holly Puppe (Aug 8); Floyd Helgoe Family Mahar/Lentsch (Aug 15)

Bishop Folda requests that we contact our federal legislators and urge them to keep the Hyde Amendment intact. The Hyde Amendment is a pro-life amendment which prevents the use of federal funds to pay for abortion. It has saved 60,000 lives per year. You can also visit this website: <https://www.notaxpayerabortion.com/>

Year of St. Joseph Prayer: "Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen"



This week on "Formed"
Learn about two saints killed in Nazi camps: **St. Edith Stein** and **St. Maximilian Kolbe!**
Sign-up at formed.org



Mon		July 12	5:15 pm	St Brigid	Winston Miller
Tues	St Henry	July 13	8:00 am	St Patrick	Jim Young Family
Wed	St Kateri	July 14	Noon	St Brigid	Skylar Alex
Thur	St Bonaventure	July 15	8:00 am	St Patrick	Makensie Miller
Fri	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	July 16	Noon	St Brigid	Landon Alex
Sat		July 17	9:00 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick Parishes
			5:00 pm	St Brigid	+Dolores, Arni, Dirk Johnson
Sun	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	July 18	8:30 am	St Patrick	St Brigid & St Patrick Parishes
			10:30 am	St Brigid	Jim Young

Stewardship (as of 7-4-21)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	1835.00	1190.00	St Patrick's Care Collection July		70.00
Plate	96.00	20.00	Cemetery	4,010.00	4,681.69
Weekly Total	1931.00	1210.00	St Anthony Cemetery \$1390.00		
Yearly Actual Total	57,378.26	25,535.99	St Brigid Gods Gift Goal: \$23,485.48	11,698.00	
Monthly Envelope Building Fund	2,152.00	2,605.00	St Patrick Gods Gift Goal: \$9,103.15		5,752.00
Ascension	495.00	105.00	St Helen Cemetery \$475.00		
			St Bernard Cemetery \$262.00		