



# Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

May 14, 2023

## What Is Your Hope?

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

**W**e have hopes for ourselves and others. We hope for good health, for fulfilling work, for settled lives for our children. As valuable as such hope might be, that is not what Peter is referring to in today's second reading. He is talking about religious hope: not hope that, but hope in. Not hope that God will give us what we ask, that God will supply what we cannot accomplish, that God will reward our faithfulness. That is also valid hope, but it is still not religious hope.

Genuine hope for those who believe in God is hope or trust in God. Period. Trust in God when we have no idea what the future might bring. Trust in God when all our best plans crumble before us. Trust in God when we face the terrors of illness and death. This is a trust or hope for which we do not provide God plans to follow so our needs get met as we think they should be. It is a hope that enables us to place ourselves into the hands of God.

This kind of hope asks for nothing and expects everything. Why? Because we are convinced that God loves us with a passion we can't possibly imagine and, therefore, wants what is best for us. This might seem like an impossible hope, but the reading goes on to list reasons to hope. God's love is exemplified by Jesus Christ, who "suffered for sins...that he might lead you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Who could ask for more?

This kind of hope asks for nothing and expects everything... because God loves us with a passion we can't possibly imagine and, therefore, wants what is best for us. †

***For those who believe  
in God, hope can be  
defined as trust in God.***

### A Word from Pope Francis

To have a healthy family, three words need to be used: please, thanks, sorry. We say "please" so as not to be forceful in family life... We say "thank you" (yet) how many days go by without uttering this word...? And sorry. We all make mistakes... Don't ever let the sun set without reconciling.

ADDRESS, PILGRIMAGE OF FAMILIES,  
ROME, OCTOBER 26, 2013



## Sunday Readings

### Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people.

### 1 Peter 3:15-18

Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.

### John 14:15-21

[Jesus said,] "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth... You know it, because it remains with you."

REFLECTION  
QUESTIONS  
**QUESTIONS**  
REFLECTION

- Do I hope and trust in God?
- In what circumstances do I need to try harder to hope in God?

# Sharing a Cup with the Queen of Angels

By Emily Blasik

I run a lifestyle blog for women called *Her Story Goes* in which I occasionally interview inspiring women in my community. While the conversation typically centers around their passions, accomplishments, and daily rituals, I always end on the same question: “If you could have coffee with one woman, living or dead, who would it be?”

I chose this question because the answer can tell you a lot about a person’s values and aspirations, and the array of names I get are always fascinating—varying from current celebrities to sixteenth-century saints to legendary authors, adventurers, and trailblazers. It’s a hard question for some, but for me, the answer is easy.

I’ve always wondered what it might be like to have coffee with the Blessed Mother. It seems kind of trivial to picture Mary in that context, doesn’t it? The Queen of Angels sitting opposite of me with a warm mug in her hand, softly smiling as I share my innermost thoughts and ask my most burning questions. But somehow, I get the sense that she’d like us to think of her that way: like an old friend with a listening ear, a confidant to lean on during times of sadness or stress, a mother to guide us when we’re lost.



If I could talk to Mary in the flesh, if I could ask her anything I wanted—what would I say? What would I ask? At first, I’d be speechless—in awe of her holiness, as visible as the crown of roses upon her head. But eventually I’d start to relax, to open up, to engage in genuine conversation with our Lady about everything under the sun. I’d embrace her like a long-lost daughter who has finally found her way home: with joy, curiosity, and perhaps a tinge of sorrow at not having met her sooner.

How many hours going forward would I seek her company, knowing full well the infinite amount of love, comfort, and wisdom she’d have to give? Most of

my life, I imagine, would be spent in her presence, if I had anything to say about it. And it occurs to me now, as I write this, that I do. We all do.

Mary might be the Mother of God, perfect in love and kindness and purity, but she’s still a woman who walked this earth like the rest of us. And I have a feeling that she simply wants to be the person sitting across from us at the end of the day, sharing secrets and struggles and hopes and dreams over coffee. †

***Our Blessed Mother sits opposite of me with a warm mug in her hand, softly smiling as I share my innermost thoughts and ask my most burning questions.***



*Lord Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, inspire us to lead holy, faith-filled, generous lives. Amen! Alleluia!*

The Redemptorists

*This article was previously published in Liguorian, a bimonthly magazine from the Redemptorists. To subscribe or purchase a gift subscription, visit [Liguorian.org](http://Liguorian.org) or call 866-848-2492.*

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 15–20

### Monday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 16:11–15 / Jn 15:26—16:4a

### Tuesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 16:22–34 / Jn 16:5–11

### Wednesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1 / Jn 16:12–15

### Thursday, Easter Weekday:


Acts 18:1–8 / Jn 16:16–20

### Friday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 18:9–18 / Jn 16:20–23

### Saturday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 18:23–28 / Jn 16:23b–28

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

May 14, 2023

© 2023 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.