

CATHEDRAL HOME LESSON
Series: Hope Does Not Disappoint

The following is a lesson you are able to do at home with your families during the upcoming weeks that Family Program classes have been suspended, due to the COVID-19 spread. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any needs or questions you might have. We are thinking of you all often and praying for you!

-God Bless

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Lesson 1: Hope Comes Through Encounter

The following excerpts are from *Spe Salvi* which is an Encyclical by Pope Benedict XVI on "Christian Hope". Please read through these quotes and reflect on the questions. Discuss as a family then pray the following prayers below.

#1 According to the Christian faith, "redemption" - salvation- is not simply a given. 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. Now the question immediately arises: what sort of hope could ever justify the statement that, on the basis of that hope and simply because it exists, we are redeemed? And what sort of certainty is involved here?

#2 "Hope", in fact, is a key word in Biblical faith - so much so that in several passages the words "faith" and "hope" seem interchangeable. Thus the *Letter to the Hebrews* closely links the "fullness of faith" (10:22) to "the confession of our hope without wavering" (10:23) Likewise, when the *First Letter of Peter* exhorts Christians to be always ready to give an answer concerning the *logos* - the meaning and the reason - of their hope (cf 3:15), "hope" is equivalent to "faith". We see how decisively the self-understanding of the early Christians was shaped by their having received the gift of trustworthy hope, when we compare the Christian life with life prior to faith, or with the situation of the followers of other religions. Paul reminds the Ephesians that before their encounter with Christ they were "without hope and without God in the world" (Eph 2:12)... Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well... The Christian message was not only "informative" but "performative". That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known - it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing. The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently, the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.

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Reflection Questions:

1. In line two of paragraph #1 it states *“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 this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey”*.
 - a. In this current reality of limitations we face due to the COVID-19 virus, what are things you are looking forward to enjoying once this pandemic is over?
 - b. What is something that you're grateful for that you might have taken for granted before the pandemic?
 - c. What makes it worth this sacrifice?
 - d. What is one good that has come from this “social-distancing”, for your family?
2. As Christians, we know that we don't live simply for the “here and now” but we live with trust in the eternal reward of Heaven. How can we live for Heaven now? What is one simple thing we can do that will remind us that our goal is Heaven?
3. In paragraph #2 it states *“a distinguishing mark of Christians is the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness.”*
 - a. Dream big- what is something you hope to do or experience sometime in your life? An adventure you want to go on, a place you want to visit, a person you want to meet, or a career you'd love to have? Parents- you can do this too!!
4. How do you seek to “Keep Holy the Sabbath” during this current situation?
 - a. Have you made a little prayer space in your house?
 - b. Do you have a favorite Mass you watch on Sundays with your family?

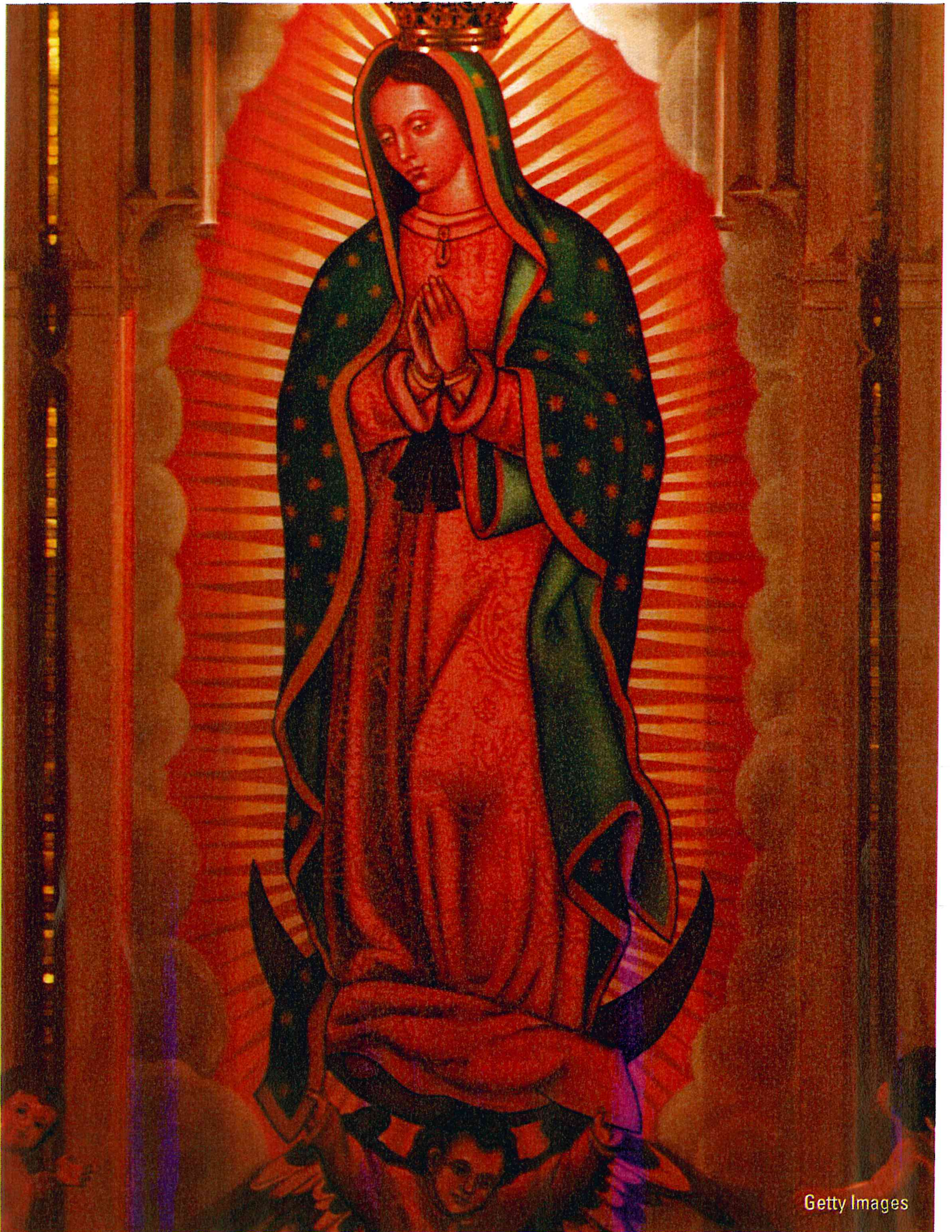
Video Resource:

Here is a video from Fr. Mike Schmitz on Hope “What is Hope and Why do You Need It?”:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=what+is+hope+fr.+mike+schmitz

Watch “Bakhita: From Slave to Saint” on Formed.org
<https://watch.formed.org/bakhita-from-slave-to-saint>

Challenge:

During these last days of Lent, make one small sacrifice together as a family and share how this sacrifice is helping you grow in virtue each day! Feel free to check in over supper together!



Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

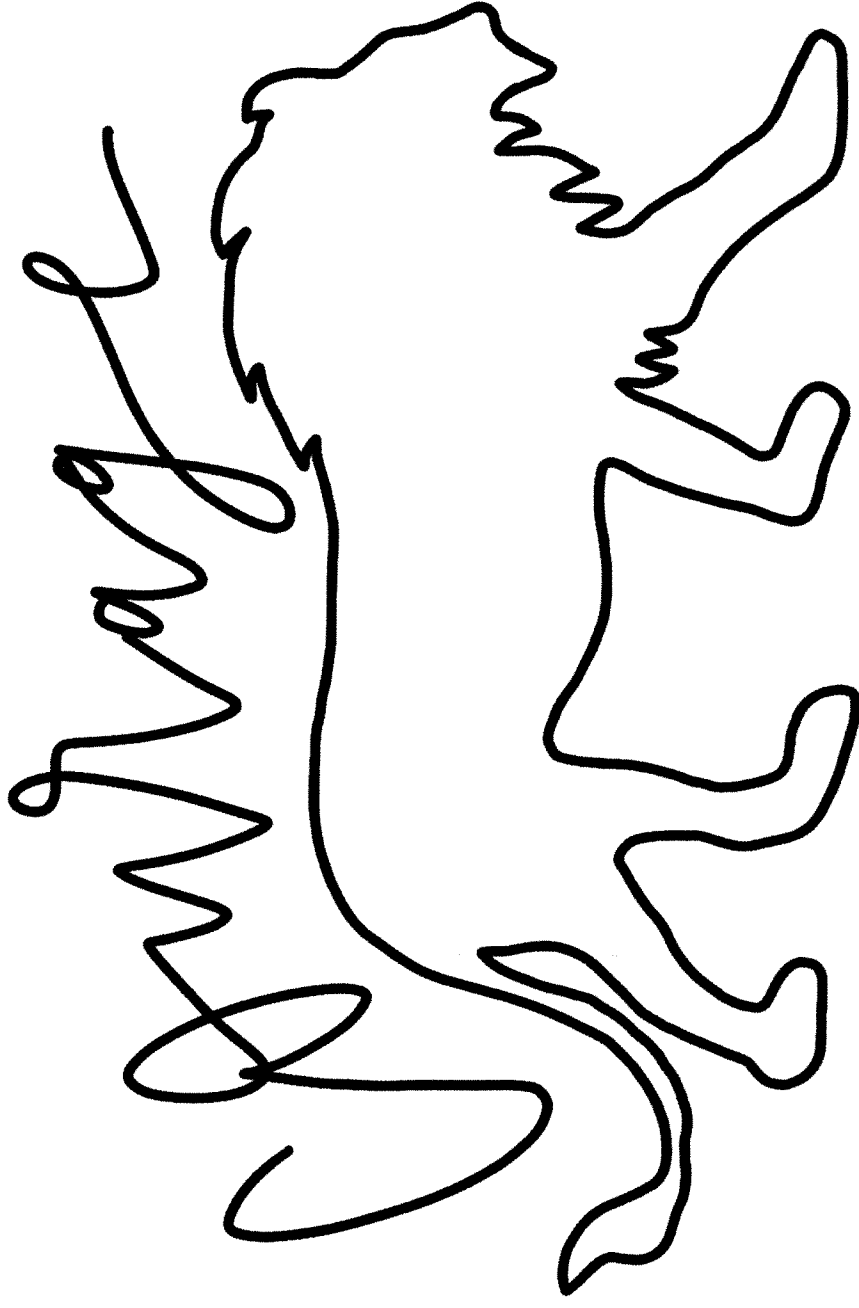
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.





DEAR HEART

C.S. LEWIS

