

Hope: a Spirituality of Justice

Suggested prayer format (15-20 minutes)

1. access the 'Hope' Resource (www.kildareministries.org.au >about us>vision & mission>hope) via personal device, or if possible on the screen at the meeting
2. turn to recommended slide
3. either one person read for group, or group read in silence as preferred
4. following some quiet reflection time, encourage group members to respond to reflection material – questions provided to assist
5. final prayer to close

“From the beginning of his pontificate Pope Francis had indicated his concerns about the environment. Pope Francis is concerned that we are heading towards an environmental catastrophe that will impact upon us all, but most pressing on the world’s poor. He asks us to recognise that ‘everything is interconnected’ (LS 70, 138, 240) and that we must understand our lives as based on three connected relationships: to God, to our neighbour, and to the natural world.” *(excerpts from ‘Laudato Si in the context of Catholic Social Teaching’, Neil Ormerod)*

These messages were reinforced in the TED talk delivered by Pope Francis on 25 April 2017. In particular Pope Francis reiterated his call to interconnectedness and solidarity:

I would love it if this meeting could help to remind us that we all need each other, none of us is an island, an autonomous and independent “I”, separated from the other, and we can only build the future by standing together, including everyone. We don’t think about it often, but everything is connected, and we need to restore our connections to a healthy state. Happiness can only be discovered as a gift of harmony between the whole and each single component.

The full TED talk can be accessed via the Hope Resource slide 8:

**POPE FRANCIS:
LEADING WITH
HOPE**

“Christian hope is ultimately a gift from God that cannot be reduced to optimism. God does not mislead hope; God cannot deny himself. God is all promise.”

On discernment

On leadership

Encountering God through open doors

Why the only future worth having includes everyone

Pope Francis TED talk

TED

Board & Stewardship Council Prayer 5.18

Spend some time quietly reflecting on the words of Pope Francis on slides 9 & 10 (copies provided)

- *which ideas resonate most deeply with you?*
- *which do you see as the most immediate challenges for your ministry?*
- *what ideas from the KM Conference have stayed with you?*

God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the
abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world
and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Amen.



Excerpts from the Ted Talk: Why the Only Future Worth Having Includes Everyone

The future is made of you's, it is made of encounters, because life flows through our relations with others...

...each and everyone's existence is deeply tied to that of others: life is not time merely passing by, life is about interactions...

...I could have very well ended up among today's "discarded" people. And that's why I always ask myself, deep in my heart: "Why them and not me?" ...

...everything is connected, and we need to restore our connections to a healthy state...

...Happiness can only be discovered as a gift of harmony between the whole and each single component. Even science points to an understanding of reality as a place where every element connects and interacts with everything else...

...How wonderful would it be if solidarity, this beautiful and, at times, inconvenient word, were not simply reduced to social work, and became, instead, the default attitude in political, economic and scientific choices, as well as in the relationships among individuals, peoples and countries...

...When one realizes that life, even in the middle of so many contradictions, is a gift, that love is the source and the meaning of life, how can they withhold their urge to do good to another fellow being?...

...love does require a creative, concrete and ingenious attitude. Good intentions and conventional formulas, so often used to appease our conscience, are not enough. Let us help each other, all together, to remember that the other is not a statistic or a number. The other has a face...

...no system can nullify our desire to open up to the good, to compassion and to our capacity to react against evil, all of which stem from deep within our hearts...

...Through the darkness of today's conflicts, each and every one of us can become a bright candle, a reminder that light will overcome darkness, and never the other way around...



Excerpts from the Ted Talk: Why the Only Future Worth Having Includes Everyone

...To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow...

...Hope is the door that opens onto the future. Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that, with time, will develop into a large tree. It is like some invisible yeast that allows the whole dough to grow, that brings flavour to all aspects of life...

...And it can do so much, because a tiny flicker of light that feeds on hope is enough to shatter the shield of darkness. A single individual is enough for hope to exist...

...And that individual can be you. And then there will be another "you," and another "you," and it turns into an "us." And so, does hope begin when we have an "us?" No. Hope began with one "you." When there is an "us," there begins a revolution....

...This is the path that Jesus himself took. He lowered himself, he lived his entire human existence practicing the real, concrete language of love....

...Yes, tenderness is the path of choice for the strongest, most courageous men and women. Tenderness is not weakness; it is fortitude. It is the path of solidarity, the path of humility...

...the more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly. Power is like drinking gin on an empty stomach if you don't connect your power with humility and tenderness...

...Through humility and concrete love, on the other hand, power – the highest, the strongest one – becomes a service, a force for good...

...the future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognize the other as a "you" and themselves as part of an "us."

