

Presentation Notes

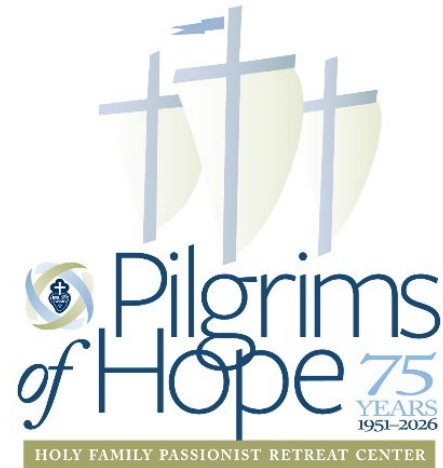
2025 - 2026 Themed Retreat

Friday Evening Conference – Noel Terranova

“Fundamentals of Hope” Hope is:

- Eschatological Horizon – Kingdom of God
- Theological Virtue, infused by God – faith, hope, and love
- Descending and Ascending – God to us; us to God
- Call to Action – hope acts to bring about what is hoped for
- Comforting and Discomforting – more than mere optimism
- Communal, not Just Individual – hope can never divide us
- HOPE MOVES US FORWARD! – we are pilgrims of hope!

Recommended Books: *A Light in the Night: Meditations on Hope* by Pope Francis
Mystical Hope: Trusting in the Mercy of God by Cynthia Bourgeault



Friday Evening Prayer – Liza Peters

- Jesus journeys with the disciples on the way to Emmaus. Jesus is our Pilgrim Companion and waits for us to take the next step on our journey.
- A pilgrim seeks to be changed by a spiritual journey and to deepen his/her connection with God.
- We are pilgrims on a journey, walking with one another. We bear the Christ-light for each other so that we can bring hope into this world of darkness.

Recommended Book: *The Portal of the Mystery of Hope* by Charles Péguy

Saturday Morning Prayer – Michael Norko

- We use the word “hope” often and casually, in a way that actually expresses our worries and fears.
- But the hope of our pilgrimage is one of faith, promise, trust, expectation, desire, becoming, waiting, and patience.
- Fr. Henri Nouwen tells us, “...Jesus speaks about hope that is not based on chances that things will get better or worse. His hope is built upon the promise that, whatever happens, God will stay with us at all times, in all places.” (from *The Road to Peace*, p 201)

Recommended Book: *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety* by Henri J.M. Nouwen

Saturday Morning Conference – Noel Terranova

- Early Christians were called “Followers of the Way” before they were called Christians
- In Mark Jesus is always “on the way” a phrase used repeatedly
 - “on the way” as an itinerant preacher
 - “on the way to Jerusalem” / “on the way” to the cross
- In John, Jesus IS “the way”: “I AM the **way**, the truth, and the life...” (Jn 14:6)
- Pilgrimage is a universal human experience, across religious traditions, an embodied symbolic way of drawing closer to the divine presence.
- Our lives are a pilgrimage towards God, each day is its own pilgrimage of hope

- The sacred journey of retreat is ESPECIALLY a pilgrimage
- Pilgrimage is both an internal journey with God and an external journey with God and with others
- “This pilgrimage of hope is made with the affections of the heart; We walk and advance not with our feet, but with the affections of our heart.” Augustine

Recommended Books: *Faith is a Journey: Meditations for Pilgrims and Wayfarer* by Pope Francis
Markings by Dag Hammarskjöld

Reconciliation – Deb Brown-Norko

- Jesus charged his disciples to “take nothing with you” when they were sent to preach and heal. That message is relevant for us today.
- The pilgrimage that is our life is difficult. We are invited to lighten the load during this sacrament of freedom.
- The sin of ‘acedia’ is the opposite of hope. It is in effect, the saying “No” to what God is calling us to do to bring about God’s kingdom on earth.

Saturday Evening Prayer – Deb Brown-Norko

- Jesus was a pilgrim too.
- Jesus grew “in wisdom and in stature during his entire earthly pilgrimage.
- Jesus learned from the people around him – both from his inner circle and complete strangers.
- We are called to be open to the lessons from those we encounter along our own pilgrimage.

Recommended Books: *While I Breathe, I Hope: A Mystagogy of Dying* by Richard Gaillardetz; *The Virtue of Hope* by Fr. Philip Bochanski; *Mystical Hope: Trusting in the Mercy of God* by Cynthia Bourgeault; *Gifts from Friends We Never Wanted: Biblical Journeys of Grace* by Virginia Herbers

Sunday Morning Conference – Sr. Maryann Cantlon, CSJ

- The journeys of the Exodus, Cardinal Van Thuan, Joseph Kim, the Wise Men, and Jesus going to Emmaus are all connected to our journey.
- We join the pilgrimage of each of these in order to give us the courage we need to take that first step away from the familiar shore.
- “Do not ever believe that you will reach your destination without leaving the shore.” From an old Chinese proverb.
- “A cold coming we had of it... just the worst time of year for a journey, and such a long journey: the ways deep and the weather sharp, the very dead of winter.” – T.S. Eliot

Recommended Books: *The Road of Hope* by Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan; *Under the Same Sky* by Joseph Kim