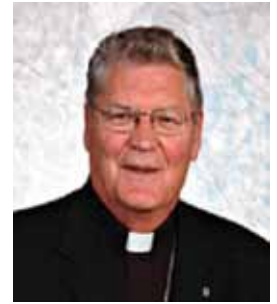


HOPE IN A TIME OF CRISIS



Archbishop Martin Currie
National Spiritual Advisor

Christian **hope** is based on the fact that God's love for us in Jesus Christ is permanent and unchanging. Trusting that we are so loved, we face life with all its sorrows and joys. Because **hope** gives us comfort and consolation in our affliction, it enables us to bring comfort to others in their need.

Christians are called – indeed empowered – to comfort others in the midst of their suffering by giving them a reason to **hope**. We are called to help them experience God's enduring love for them.

This is what makes Christians' care in a time of crisis and disaster truly distinctive. We are to do for one another what Jesus did: comfort others by inspiring in them confidence and **hope**. I would like to paraphrase and share with you some thoughts that were expressed by Father Ron Rolheiser, o.m.i., in a recent article that I read.

Recently, the world witnessed the devastating earthquake in Haiti where nearly a quarter of a million people died, hundreds of thousands were injured, over a million were left homeless and countless numbers now face the possibility of disease from lack of proper water, food and hygiene. This disaster has taken

place in the poorest country in the western hemisphere and devastated a people who have a deep faith in God. Where is God in all this? Why would a loving God let such bad things happen to such good people?

This type of question concerning God and human suffering has been asked for as long as women and men have believed in God. Where was God when the earthquake struck Haiti? God was there weeping with the people. He was there grieving beside the graves. Even though He didn't work a miracle, He was there. He was there in the love and care being poured out by so many people, from so many countries in so many ways. He was there with the families and friends as they cried, comforted each other and prayed together.

We must never lose **hope** because we know by faith that God will, in His way, redeem what was lost so that in the mystery of God, not a single life will remain unredeemed.

Because we are people of faith and **hope**, we trust that a loving God will make all things better. Yes, life has changed, and will be different, but our God has never abandoned His people and will continue to walk with us on our journey. †



MAISON VALE INCO HOSPICE DONATION

Holy Redeemer Parish Council, Sudbury, Ontario

Holy Redeemer Parish Council donated \$1,000 to purchase a bench for the hospice memorial garden. The council's special focus on palliative care is in keeping with the League theme *Women of Peace and Hope*. Other initiatives will focus on reaching out to women of other cultures and backgrounds.

