



CHRIST OUR HOPE

IN EVERY SEASON OF *Life*

“Hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm.”

HEBREWS 6:18-19

RESPECT LIFE REFLECTION

Christ Our Hope: In Every Season of Life

From the time we are knit together in our mothers' wombs until we take our final breaths, each moment of our lives is a gift from God. While every season of life brings its own challenges and trials, each season also gives us new opportunities to grow in our relationship with God.

Today the gift of life is threatened in countless ways. Those who are most vulnerable, rather than receiving the protection they deserve, are all too often seen as a burden and as expendable. As new attacks on human life continue to emerge, we can be tempted to despair, but Christ instead offers us unfailing hope.

Hope is not false optimism or empty positivity. Christian hope is something much more profound and goes to the very depths of our identity as followers of Christ.

Hope is the virtue “by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 1817).

Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, “God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end” (*Spe salvi* 31).

Christians know “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” (SS 2).

For this reason, a woman experiencing a difficult pregnancy can find the strength to welcome her precious child into the world. A man facing a terminal diagnosis can see that the end of his earthly life is only the beginning of eternal life with Christ.

The Church teaches us that “the one who has hope lives differently” (SS 2). Christ’s promise of salvation does not mean that we will be spared from suffering. Rather, the promise of salvation ensures that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we will be given the strength to persevere. By virtue of this Christian hope, we can face any challenge or trial. When the seas of life swell and we are battered by the waves, hope allows us to remain anchored in the heart of God. May we hold fast to Christ our hope, from the beginning of life to its very end.

CURIOUS ABOUT THE **MEANING** OF YOUR LIFE?

Seek answers at **Discovering Christ.**



A great (free) dinner



An engaging Bible-inspired
message



Discussion and conversation
about the message

Sunday Evenings

October 13 – December 8
St. Mary's Social Room

5:00 PM - 7:15 PM

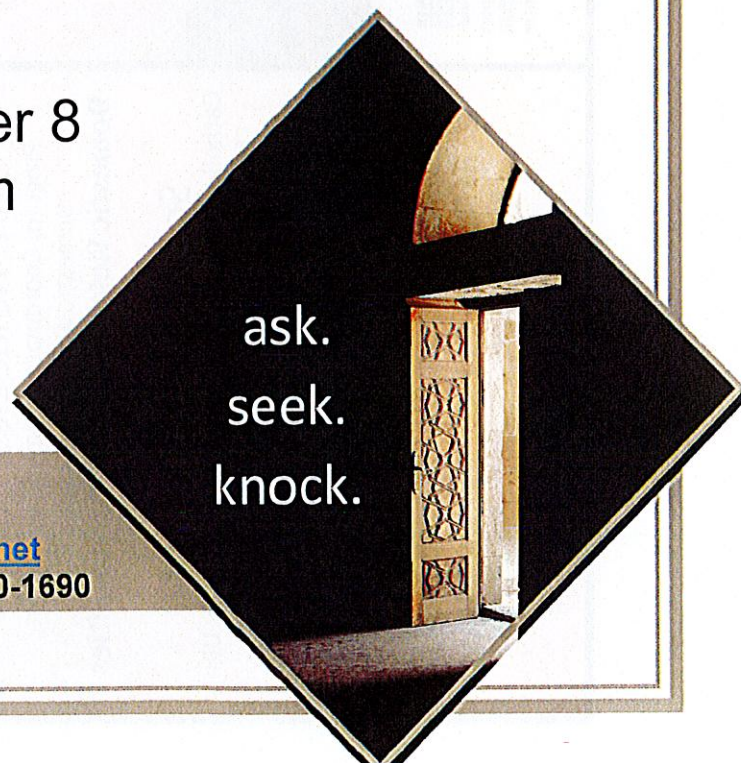
Also, mark your calendars for a special
retreat day for session 6.

Learn more and register:

Email: saintmaryse@sleepyeyetel.net

or Deacon Mike McKeown (507) 430-1690

Registration is open! No cost to participate!



Diocese of New Ulm Ethics Conference

BREAKING FREE

from Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking

Sat, Oct 12, 2019 8 am-4 pm

Schoenstatt on the Lake Retreat Center, Sleepy Eye

Registration 8:00 am

Opening Mass 8:30 am celebrated by Bishop John M. LeVoir

Opening Remarks 9:30 am

Conclusion 4:00 pm

Everyone is invited to attend.

Our speakers will be giving a face to domestic violence and human trafficking as well as identifying Church and community resources to empower each of us, in light of Catholic Social Teaching, to respond and help bring about healing.

*Open your minds
and hearts to the
beauty of all
that God has
made and to his
special,
personal love for
each one of YOU.*

St. John Paul II



Registration Info

Register by Oct 7 * \$20 individual (includes lunch)

Go to www.dnu.org/ethicsconference/ for registration info

or contact Cindy Blickem 507-233-5325 cblickem@dnv.org

Avera
Marshall
with support
from Avera Marshall
Regional Medical Center

Presenters

Suzann Brown

Breaking Free

**Empowering Women to Fly with Wings
of Dignity, Truth, and Strength**

Sr. Teresa Wolf, OSB

Director of Glacial Lake Multicultural Center

**The Role of Health Care & Catholic
Social Teaching in Combating Human
Trafficking & Domestic Violence**

Sara Neidecker-Schoo

Program Coordinator, Committee against

Domestic Abuse, New Ulm, MN

Domestic Violence in Rural Communities

Sr. Lois Byrne, PBVM

Catholic Charities Counselor, Diocese of New Ulm

**Hope, Healing, & Empowerment for
Young Women of Families**

Experiencing Domestic Violence

Sr. Candace Fier, ISSM

Director Office of Family Life, Diocese of New Ulm

**As Church - Called to Respond to
Sexual & Domestic Violence**