

Hope in Later Life

Pope Francis invites us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' in the year of Jubilee, 2025. In his Papal Bull, 'Spec non Confundit' (Hope does not disappoint) he says,

"Hope does not expire, because it is based on the fidelity of God. The hope of the Spirit is not even optimism. Born deeper, it rekindles at the bottom of the heart the certainty of being precious because we are loved."



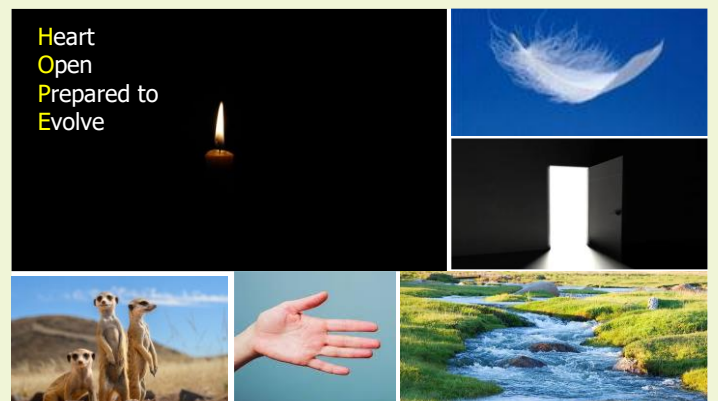
Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:13-14

Image: *Christ and the Samaritan Woman*
Duccio di Buoninsegna (1255 – 1319)

Just to be beside you by Gabriel Fitzmaurice

Just to be beside you is enough,
Just to make your breakfast tea and toast,
To help you with the ware, that kind of stuff,
Just to get the papers and your post;
To hold you in my arms in calm embrace,
Just to sit beside you at the fire,
Just to trace my fingers on your face
Is more to me than all of youth's desire;
Just to lie beside you in the night,
To hear you breathe in peace before I sleep,
To wake beside you in the morning light
In the love we sowed together that we reap.
Together we have taken smooth and rough.
Just to be beside you is enough.

**'I am a feather on
the breath of God.'**
Hildegard of Bingen



'Expectation, like efficiency, looks at the end of things, for goals and accomplishments.
Hope, like love, looks to the beginnings, for promptings, longings, urgings.'

From 'The Awakened Heart' by Gerald May.

'When we decline in the acre of activity and become weaker physically, growth can continue at the level of the heart.' Mgr Donal Lucey