



# Fraternity of Fatherhood

## A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 9

Issue 4



Dec 10, 2020

### HOPE

By: Mike Allison

Hope is eyes toward heaven.  
All on earth pointed toward the things eternal.  
All my life all my love all my sufferings.  
Hope is what is true and glorious.  
Hope contains in itself the grace to persevere to the end.  
Hope is the great gift of sight the Lord gives so we do  
not go through life blind and indifferent to love.

As we continue through this time of pandemic, especially during this Christmas season, may we always remember the power of Hope and strength of our faith. Remember we are not left orphans. Remember one of the most hopeful verses in Revelation that "He who sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new'" (Rev 21:5)

Here's a way to help us remember to live in hope.....

#### H – HEAVEN

Thinking of heaven and things eternal.

#### O – OFFERING

Offering everything to God. Trusting Him.

(...continued page 2)

"The message of HOPE is recognized as we enter into the joy of the Resurrection. Our Lord gave of Himself in His passion and His death to free us from sin."

hope IS BORN

"Jesus, the Son of God, the Word made flesh born unto us, came to restore all things to His glory."

Fr. Santan Pinto



## HOPE

*...continued from page 1*

### **P- PRAYER**

Praying with confidence, persistence and perseverance.

### **E - EXPECTATION**

Hoping with expectation of the fulfillment of God's promises.

God our Father is true and fulfills all of His promises.

The spiritual virtue of hope is not like the world views hope as a kind of "wishing". The gift of hope is confidence that what the Lord promises is true. It is confident assurance of the peace Jesus gives that the world cannot give.

Here are a few of the promises of Christ shared by Fr. Santan Pinto.

There are many more. If you read scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to show them to you, you'll discover many more for yourself.

### **Some Promises of Christ:**

- I give you my words, if you are ready to believe that you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, it shall be done for you. (Mark 11:24)
- Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the kingdom of God.
- If you forgive the faults of others, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours.
- And I promise you that whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones because he is a disciple will not want for his reward. (Mt. 10:42)
- Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. (Mt.11:28)
- Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, but whoever humbles himself shall be exalted. (Mt.23:12)
- And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world. (Mt. 28:20)
- I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you may also be. (John 14:3)



**Make Time for  
Confession .... Jesus' gift  
to You.**

**Receive the gift of  
Reconciliation this  
Christmas. Prepare your  
soul for His coming.**

## 10 Ways to Be Filled With the Hope of Christmas By: Copeland Ministries

As you share Christmas with friends and family, here are 10 ways to stir yourself up and be filled with the Hope of Christmas.

Imagine waking up on Christmas morning to the most beautiful gift under your tree. Wrapped in sparkly Christmas paper and tied with a gorgeous bow, it beckons to be opened. You glance at the tag, wondering the name of the blessed recipient. Whose name is on it? Yours! You eagerly open the gift, trying not to destroy the beautiful paper. Once you finally open the box, you find a book. As you open this special book, these words fill the pages: May you always be filled with the Hope of Christmas.

The Hope of Christmas is the most precious and beautiful gift ever given. What is the Hope of Christmas? In a Word—Jesus! The moment Jesus was born, the hope that had been lost when Adam betrayed God in the Garden of Eden entered the world once again. It is this powerful hope that caused the wise men to travel hundreds of miles to bring the newborn King gifts on the very first Christmas.

We have already received the greatest gift we could ever receive—Jesus, and the hope He brings fills the pages of God’s Word. You have everything you need to live a victorious life wrapped up in one Name—the Name of Jesus. This Christmas, it’s time to stir yourself up in Jesus—the Hope of Christmas. As you share Christmas with friends and family, here are 10 ways to be filled with the Hope of Christmas.

### 1. Believe and Be Filled This Christmas

*“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.” –Romans 15:13, KJV*

Do you want to experience joy and peace this Christmas? The key is believing! When you believe God’s Word, God Himself, the God of Hope, will fill you with all joy and peace. But what happens when you stop believing—stop hoping? Well, the Bible says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick” (Proverbs 13:12, NKJV), so we can’t afford to stop hoping or we risk losing our joy. Remember, the children of Israel didn’t have hope before Jesus entered the world. It had been centuries since they were promised a deliverer, and then, real Bible Hope was born. Don’t ever stop believing in hope—not the wishing or wanting kind of hope but real Bible Hope. Jesus is the Hope of Christmas, and He is the reason we celebrate.

### 2. Rest in Hope This Christmas

*“No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.” –Acts 2:26, 28*

The only hope that any man has anywhere in the world is faith in Jesus Christ. That hope is something we can rest in, no matter what our circumstances are. Jesus offers His rest to all who are feeling burdened or under a heavy load. That means, if you’re in a mess today—it’s not your job to fix it. It’s your job to enter into His rest.

Taking rest is a choice—so choose to rest in Hope! Then, refuse to move out of your rest by what you feel or see around you. Rest in the integrity and strength of the words of Jesus when He said, “Come to me...and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Our Father never stops reaching out to deliver us—especially when things are going wrong—and He won’t stop this Christmas. So, take a deep breath, exhale and step into the supernatural rest of Hope Himself.

### 3. Refuse to Fear This Christmas

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love, and of a sound mind.” –2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV*

This Christmas, we should be running over with hope because we have a Savior, a Deliverer, a Healer and a Strong Tower! But out in the world, the panic button is being pushed everywhere you look, and a spirit of fear permeates people’s minds. They worry about what’s going to happen to them, their jobs, their businesses and their families. Many are wringing their hands in fear and wondering what they’re going to do about one situation or another.

## ...continued 10 Ways to Be Filled With the Hope of Christmas

If you find yourself pushing the panic button, here's your answer: Have faith in God, and refuse to fear!

Fear gives the devil place, brings torment and keeps us from receiving all God has for us. Plus, it's a bad witness to a hurting world. So, why would you let fear come to Christmas dinner? To pull the plug on fear, try reading Matthew 11:28 three to five times every hour of every day instead of reading the news or your social media feeds. Place your Bible next to your bed, and if you wake up in the night with any kind of fearful thoughts, read the promises of God, then roll over and go back to sleep. When you're filled to the brim with the Word, you won't have any room to fear!

### 4. Live Life More Abundantly This Christmas

*"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." –John 10:10, NKJV*

Christmas isn't just about the birth of Christ—it's about His purpose and His mission. He came to set the captives free and to give us life more abundantly. So, stop accepting sin, sickness and failure, and step into resurrection life! Once you understand you have the life of God inside you, you'll begin to act like Jesus did. You'll lay hands on the sick, cast out demons, and preach the gospel to everyone you can find! You'll be just what God intended—the hands and feet of Jesus.

### 5. Know That Christ in You Is the Hope of Glory This Christmas

*"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." –Colossians 1:27, NKJV*

Just for a moment, stop the hustle and bustle and think about this: The glory of God has made you a new creation. That's something to celebrate! The glory of God is in the Church, and His glory was put inside your spirit the moment you received Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Did you know you can experience more of God's glory—which is His manifested presence—this Christmas? Absolutely! To increase in God's glory, study and apply God's Word, and allow the Holy Spirit to bring you from glory to glory.

### 6. Expect Miracles This Christmas

*"Behold, I make all things new." –Revelation 21:5, KJV*

Throughout His life, Jesus specialized in bringing people hope and destroying the works of the devil. He brought so much hope, multitudes of people thronged Him wherever He went. Why? Because when Jesus was on the scene, miracles happened, and lives were made new and changed. People who were hopelessly sick, blind, deaf or in debt began to hope that maybe if they had an encounter with Jesus, their lives would be different. Maybe they would be healed and set free, and they were.

You can expect the same miracles today. In fact, Jesus told us to expect them—and more ([John 14:12](#)). The supernatural power of God doesn't go on pause during the Christmas season. Just because others are preoccupied with gifts, travel and family visits, doesn't mean you have to wait for another date to address sickness, lack or strife. Be armed and ready with God's Word this Christmas! Speak healing, speak financial abundance, speak family reconciliation—then **EXPECT miracles this Christmas**.

### 7. Rejoice in Victory This Christmas

*"Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer." –Romans 12:12, AMPC*

Christmas is a time to celebrate victory! Satan couldn't stop Jesus from coming to earth, walking in His ministry, and being resurrected to bring us life, and He can't stop your victory! That's why we live in hope, and that's why we **rejoice in victory this Christmas**! So, when Satan comes to steal your victory and tell you that God is not going to help you this time, you just think on the Word of God and start rejoicing. Rejoice that you're in Him. Rejoice that heaven is your home. Rejoice that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Rejoice. Be patient under pressure. Be constant in prayer. Then, the devil won't be able to steal one thing from you!



## ...continued 10 Ways to Be Filled With the Hope of Christmas

### 8. Make Room for Jesus This Christmas

*“My son, attend to my words.” –Proverbs 4:20, KJV*

Somewhere in your long Christmas to-do list, have you made room for Jesus? God’s WORD can supply enough divine wisdom, power and life to conquer any challenge you might be facing. When you give His Word first place, you open your heart and your ears to hear the Holy Spirit leading and guiding you. When you spend quality time with God, He can relieve you of the burdens and life struggles you are carrying.

So, simplify your life this Christmas and make attending to God’s Word the No. 1 thing on your to-do list. It’s the only sure way to live BLESSED.

### 9. Show Love This Christmas

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” –John 3:16, NKJV*

God is Love. That’s why He sent us the greatest gift ever given—Jesus. When we receive the perfect love of God, we are able to give love to others. Loving those in the world isn’t always an easy task, but when we are overflowing with the love of God, we have the most important tool we need to carry out the second greatest commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39, NKJV). This Christmas, make a decision to show the love of God to others everywhere you go. When you’re shopping, smile at people, open doors for them, let them go ahead of you in line, give them the best parking place up front. Show the world the true meaning of the season—Love Himself.

### 10. Give a Reason for Your Hope This Christmas

*“And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” –1 Peter 3:15*

Most of the world is without hope. They may put up a Christmas tree, decorate and buy gifts—but are they really filled with the Hope of Christmas? There is only one way to have true hope in this earth and that is through Jesus Christ. Don’t let an opportunity pass you by this Christmas to share the reason for your hope. It is the greatest gift you can ever give.

As you practice these 10 ways to be filled with the Hope of Christmas, remember that the true foundation of your hope is Jesus. As you live out this hope among your family and friends, you will be joyful and victorious, and a light in a dark world. And if you haven’t already opened up that beautiful, sparkly gift of Christmas Hope under your tree, do it now. Jesus is waiting for you to put your hope in Him. This precious gift, topped with a beautiful bow, has your name on it...all you have to do is [receive it](#).

Merry Christmas, and may you always be filled with the Hope of Christmas!



## **Portland, Oregon Men**

....During these times of pandemic, our Fatherhood Fraternity meets via "FreeConferenceCall.com" the second Saturday of the month at 8AM for recitation of the Rosary followed by discussion of "The 50 Steps In Littleness" by Father Pinto.

Both single and married men are welcome.

Contact Brendan 503-358-4963.

**Come join us!**



## ***A Fraternity for All Men***

The Fraternity of Fatherhood is for men of all ages. Our desire is to serve the Lord in all areas of our lives and to especially model our gift and responsibilities as fathers after the example of God the Father and His goodness. We support men; meeting them where they are. We engage in one-on-one friendships and provide opportunities for group activity, support and formation.

We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage of Saint Joseph.

## ***Our Mission***

To serve as men dedicated to the Lord in all aspects of our lives. To encourage and support men / fathers throughout the world in their gift and responsibilities as fathers. To encourage and support fathers "to respond" to their vocation, to protect and remain strong carrying their families in their hearts. Our desire is to be united to The Lord and fulfill our holy mission as fathers.

## ***What is it we hope to do?***

Bring men / fathers, closer to God by inviting them to learn their faith, challenging them to live their faith and encouraging them to love and share their faith. In addition, we invite those not married as this is a time to discern their vocation and calling in the Church.

As Fraternity of Fatherhood members, we are committed to grow and be formed spiritually, to support each other, to be active and supportive in our parishes. We are committed to learn who we are as Catholic men, to be discovered through our life experiences, prayer, studying Scripture and the documents of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, obedience to the Holy Roman Pontiff, our Roman Catholic Bishops and our parish Pastors. The formation of "Fatherhood" takes place in our hearts. Being a father means understanding that it is a call. When Fatherhood is received as a gift, it is accepted in humility and gratitude. Humility comes from the fact that we are weak. The pressures of the world are strong and flesh seems to have its way. Gratitude comes from the fact that the Lord is our Shepherd and He is with us always. With Him all things are possible.



## “Rest in Peace” Jerry Gross

## Fatherhood Fraternity

Dear Men,

Our beloved brother, Jerry Gross, entered his eternal rest on Monday, October 5, 2020. Jerry has been a devoted Fatherhood Fraternity member since the very beginning.

***Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.***

*Below is a testimony "God's Garden" that Jerry shared with us all a year ago. In his memory we are sharing it again. A gift of Hope for us all. Thank you Jerry!*

When I came back from my trip to the hospital with Pneumonia recently, I was given a gift. I live in a retirement community and some of the people are very challenging to live with on a day to day basis.

I had always been judgmental, even though I didn't mean to be. As I came back, I was given the gift of recognizing each and everyone of them (resident retirees) as God's flower growing in His garden. It came to me, "Let them be."

Some of the more difficult ones to deal with, in my mind, I pictured as black sunflowers, but, again, in God's garden, I am sure they are beautiful. So, as I now face individuals, instead of judging them, I am able to look at them and say, "God's flowers. Let them be."

It relieved a lot of anxiety on my part and totally cured me from my judgmentalism, at least as this point in my life.

Testimony given October 15, 2019.

Jerry Gross was a member of the Fraternity of Fatherhood in Portland, Oregon.



## Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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## Solemnity Of The Immaculate Conception December 8th...

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States. Four years later, 1858, in Lourdes, France Our Lady confirmed to Bernadette that she is "The Immaculate Conception".

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*





## RISE—A 30 DAY CHALLENGE FOR MEN

Brothers in Christ,  
Are you tired of just existing in this world? Are you tired of seeing manhood (Fatherhood) degraded and tossed aside? How about finding out more about your role as a man in this modern age?

I wanted to share with you a recent spiritual journey that I just completed with my brother in Christ, Mike Allison. It is called the RISE Men's Challenge. It is a 30 day online program that will challenge you to look at your relationship with God, your family, your friends and most importantly yourself. The program invites you to look at your past, present and your future. It will help make sense of your Fatherhood (or Manhood) in today's world. It helps you see how Christ is involved in all aspects of your life.

The program offers you a daily video presentation and a small daily challenge that will lead you to further deepen your relationship with God and all those whom you come in contact with. It will help you to look interiorly at your feelings and behaviors.

The challenge invites you to walk with a brother (of your choosing) along the journey. I invited Mike Allison to walk with me. I found that the program deepened our friendship and formed new spiritual bonds that were previously not there. I found a new brother and confidant in whom I can now open up to when I need a spiritual buddy or just a good friend. The program takes just a few minutes each day. It is well worth the time (and small fee) you will invest. After you have completed the challenge you can return to it anytime you desire to revisit a session, video, etc.

The program is produced and hosted by Chris Stefanick. You can find it on his website:  
[RealLifeCatholic.com](http://RealLifeCatholic.com)

Once you are on the website you will find RISE MEN'S CHALLENGE under the COACHING button. I challenge you to take this journey with Chris Stefanick, a brother, and our Lord Jesus Christ! I promise that you will not regret it.

God bless.  
Richard Phelps  
Sacramento



real life catholic

JESUS

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### The RISE Challenge

RISE is a 30-day challenge for men who desire greater peace, balance, and fulfillment in their lives. It's for men who want to really live the beauty and power of the Gospel in their day-to-day lives—for men who rise up to the challenge of being the fathers, sons, brothers, and husbands they were meant to be.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

## CARRY YOUR FAMILY IN YOUR HEART - A CALL TO HOLINESS

**A husband/father's guide to his vocation and spiritual direction. Each Newsletter focuses on one of the Guidelines or Areas of Growth from the "Carry Your Family In Your Heart" book. These guidelines to our Fatherhood Vocation & Spiritual Formation have been formatted based on the Fatherhood Retreat Guideline Teachings & under Spiritual Direction of Fr. Santan Pinto, S.O.L.T.**

## DEVOTED TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY

In our growth and development as fathers, we need a lot of help. Mary is our help. Without her protection and guidance, we will be lost. Mary is the surest, safest and simplest way to her Son. At the foot of the cross, our Lord, in giving Mary to beloved St. John, Jesus gave us His mother as well. We cannot go wrong under her guidance and protection.

Our Lady said "Yes." She said yes for all of us, for the entire human race. As fathers, we need to echo that yes for our own lives. In saying yes, we are saying that we will surrender what we are, our humanity, our fatherhood to the Holy Spirit and allow Christ to shape us, fill us, teach us. This surrender requires absolute trust just like Our Lady's surrender. It was without condition and without reservation.

Mary has given us two great gifts and both are great weapons against Satan - the Rosary and the Brown Scapular - a powerful devotion and sacramental endorsed by our Church. While holding the rosary in our hand, it is the same as holding our Blessed Mother's hand. Our Lady says to wear the scapular devoutly and perseveringly. "It is my garment. To be clothed in it means you are continually thinking of me, and I in turn, am always thinking of you and helping you secure eternal life."

Mary's devotion is to lead us to her Son. She leads us to her Son in the Eucharist. Every second of the day, somewhere in the world a priest is lifting the host. In the same way that the Word of God nourishes, so does the Eucharist. In the Eucharist we witness heaven and earth come together.

As fathers we should offer our families protection and guidance to Mary. As St. John Damascene says, "To be devoted to Mary is an arm of salvation which God gives to those whom He wishes to save."

**1st CANDLE – (purple) THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

**2nd CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

**3rd CANDLE – (pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

**4th CANDLE – (purple) THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

**5th CANDLE – (white) "CHRIST CANDLE"** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)



## Saints Corner - Pope Declares A Year of St. Joseph

cruxnow.com

ROME –Pope Francis on Tuesday (Dec 8,2020) issued a decree launching a special year dedicated to St. Joseph coinciding the anniversary of his declaration as Patron of the Catholic Church, hailing him as a model of fatherhood and a key intercessor in modern times.

Published Dec. 8, on the 150th anniversary of *Quemadmodum Deus* by Pope Pius IX which declared St. Joseph patron of the Catholic Church, the decree formally instituted a year for St. Joseph, which will run until Dec. 8, 2021.

The document, signed by the head of the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, said the year would be an opportunity for faithful to follow St. Joseph's example and "daily strengthen their life of faith in full fulfillment of God's will."

"All faithful will thus have the opportunity to commit themselves, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations which today afflict the contemporary world," it said.

The decree outlined several instances in which faithful will be able to obtain a plenary indulgence in relation to the Year of St. Joseph, provided they meet the usual conditions of going to confession, receiving the Eucharist, and praying for the intentions of the pope.

- According to the document, a plenary indulgence will be available under these conditions: To those who meditate of the Our Father prayer for at least 30 minutes or take part in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph
- To those who perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy
- To families or engaged couples who recite the rosary together
- To those who entrust their daily work to St. Joseph and those who ask St. Joseph to intercede for the unemployed
- To those who recite a prayer to St. Joseph (the litanies of St. Joseph in Latin rite, or Akathistos to St. Joseph in the Byzantine rite, or any other prayer to St. Joseph) for the relief of Christians persecuted both inside and outside of the Church
- To faithful who recite "any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph," with an encouragement to do so on the March 19 and May 1 feasts of St. Joseph, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Byzantine celebration of St. Joseph's Sunday, and on the 19th of every month and on every Wednesday, which has been dedicated to St. Joseph in the Latin rite
- To the elderly, sick, dying and those legitimately unable to leave the house, who recite an act of piety to St. Joseph under his title of Comfort of the Sick and Patron of a happy death, provided they offer their discomfort to God and fulfill the conditions for the indulgence "as soon as possible"



Piacenza urged all priests with the appropriate faculties to make themselves available to an extra degree to offer confessions and to administer communion to the sick more often. In an apostolic letter issued Dec. 8 to coincide with the launch of the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis recalled Joseph's actions in the bible, noting that after the Virgin Mary, no other saint has been mentioned as frequently by popes.



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POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

**We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage  
of St. Joseph.**



**St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.**



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To submit feedback and/or suggestions for future article topics, please email the editors,

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