



Session Eight

The Eucharist and Hope

THE EUCHARIST AND HOPE

Opening Prayer

Wise and gracious God,
you spread a table before us
and nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread from heaven.
In our sharing of these holy gifts,
show us our unity in you
and give us a taste of the life to come.
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen**

Scripture *Jeremiah 29:11-13*

I know the plans I have in mind for you
- it is the Lord who speaks -
plans for peace, not disaster,
reserving a future full of hope for you.
Then when you call to me,
and come to plead with me, I will listen to you.
When you seek me you shall find me,
when you seek me with all your heart; I will let you find me.

Words of Pope Francis

The Eucharist holds the central place in the Church because it is “what makes the Church”. As the Second Vatican Council affirms, using the words of the great Augustine, it is the “*sacramentum pietatis, signum unitatis, vinculum caritatis*” [*sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity*] (*Sacrosanctum Concilium, n. 47*). The theme chosen for the upcoming [2014] International Eucharistic Congress is highly significant: “Christ in you, our hope of glory” (*Col 1:27*). It sets in full light the bond between the Eucharist, mission and Christian hope. Today there is a lack of hope in the world, that is why humanity needs to hear the message of our hope in Jesus Christ.

Address to participants in the Plenary of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, 27 September 2014

Reflection

Fr Tom Smith

The reflection from Fr Tom is available to download from cliftondiocese.com.
Play the video clip [here](#).

Questions for conversation

Share an occasion where you celebrated Mass while travelling or on holiday:
what struck you most about that experience?

When have you found prayer a source of consolation and hope?

Which aspect of your catholic faith fills you with the greatest sense of hope?

Re-read the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might pray the **OUR FATHER**.

Final Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in this most wonderful sacrament
you have left us the memorial of your passion;
deepen our reverence for the mystery of your body and blood,
that we may experience within us the fruit of your redemption.
You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen**

