

PMPT Theme (2017-2019): BE DISCIPLES OF HOPE

Melaka-Johor Diocesan Theme (2016-2020): CHURCH AS COMMUNITY OF FAMILIES

January 2017 PMPT Sub-theme --- HOPE: God's Gift for the Kingdom

Introduction: "It is true: *God hopes!* (cf. Rom 15:13). "So if God hopes, then no one should lose hope. For hope is the *strength* to keep moving forward. It is the *power to press on* towards the future and a changed life. It is the *incentive* to look to tomorrow." (Homily of Pope Francis, 6 Nov 2016)

Opening Song: All Creatures of Our God and King (G.14 SYPTG)

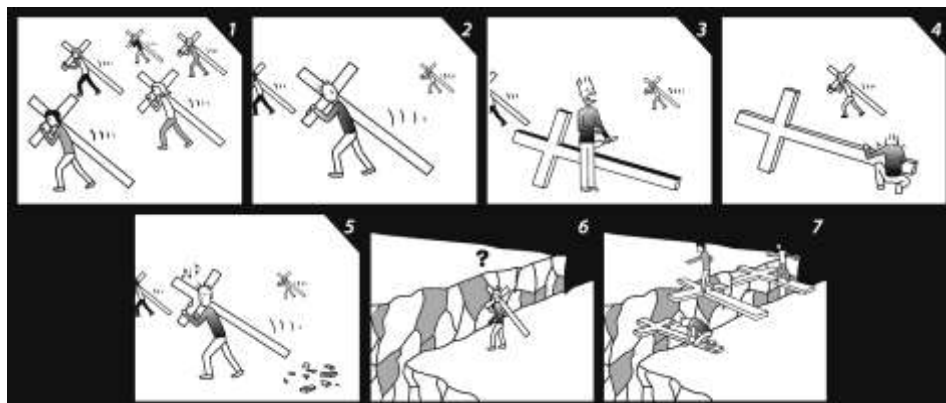
1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam

Chorus: O praise Him, O praise Him
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

2. Dear Mother Earth, who day by day
Unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him, Alleluia
The flowers and fruits that in these grow
Let them His glory also show.

3. And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part
O praise Him, Alleluia
Ye who long sorrow and pain bear
Praise God and on Him cast your care

DIALOGUE:



A family is having a discussion on the above pictures.

Son : Dad, why is everyone carrying a cross?

Dad : Yes, everyone of us has a cross to carry.

Daughter: Dad, that cross looks so heavy. I think he is going to cut off part the cross to make it lighter to carry.

Mom : Look! He has reached a ravine and is unable to place his cross over the ravine as his cross is too short. Others can use their crosses to walk over to the other side.

Dad : It is important to face our difficulties even though it can be very hard at times. The little pains that we go through in our daily lives help to build our strength, grow in maturity and deepen our relationship with God.

Mom : Yes children, your dad is right. Sometimes I too complain when difficulties come my way. I too feel like I want to cut off part of my cross ---like the man in the picture. However, when I turn to God in prayer, I feel strengthened and I find solutions to my difficulties. God always helps me to find a way and I am grateful to Him.

Buzz with the person next to you. Buzz a second time with another person

- Share your feelings and insights about the above picture and conversation.
- Share how you face the trials and difficulties in your daily life?

DISCERNMENT

Biblical text: Rom 5:1-5

1. Ask the Holy Spirit
(for *openness to encounter Christ and to be encountered by Christ ...*)
2. Read the text two or three times
(or use *drawings, pictures, role play, video ...*)
3. Be in silence with the text
4. What words or phrases caught my attention?
5. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me?

DEEDS

- a) Share in small groups(3-4 persons) on points # 4 + 5
- b) Share 2 or 3 main points with all present
- c) Facilitator guides members in deciding on ONE task to be carried out as a BEC/community
(Note: *May need to pause if it is difficult to arrive at ONE common task*)
- d) Facilitator helps the BEC/community with details of the chosen task that will bring a sense of hope to others
- e) Time of prayer
(for the needs of persons in the BEC/community, country and the task that has been decided ...)

Note to facilitator

- i) Use creative/alternative/participative ways in facilitating
- ii) Keep in mind the theme; what transpired in the **Dialogue** and **Discernment** portion of the guide
- iii) Keep in mind the **4E** approach; **Encountered, Empowered, Enlightened, Evangelising**
- iv) You are free to facilitate the **3D(Dialogue, Discernment, Deeds)** process so that it is relevant and meaningful for the BEC/community gathering

Closing Song: God Will Make A Way

God will make a way
 Where there seems to be no way
 He works in ways we cannot see
 He will make a way for me
 He will be my guide
 Hold me closely to His side
 With love and strength for each new day
 He will make a way, He will make a way

By a roadway in the wilderness, He'll lead me
 And rivers in the desert will I see
 Heaven and Earth will fade but His Word will still remain
 And He will do something new today.