



# Roots & Wings

A publication of the Infant Jesus of Prague Catholic Life Committee

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## Hope By: Laurie Liesen

The virtue of hope consists of believing in God, trusting in Him, and looking forward to eternal life. By having hope, we affirm that God has created us, and that our lives are not destined for “nothingness.” Our hope in God comes from the gift of grace, which enables us to look to the future without anxiety or the fear of death. Hope is our turning toward the true fulfillment of our nature—loving God and His goodness and living our faith in order to have eternal happiness with God. As Christians, we also have hope for eternal life because of God’s forgiveness of our sins. God sent Jesus to redeem us, and therefore

Christ is both the foundation and fulfillment of our hope for eternal life. Hope in God is more enduring than any other hopes we may have. The promises and hopes from science, power, wealth, or status can be illusionary and are fleeting. While these things may provide some sense of security and understanding, God’s love for us and His promise of eternal life are constant. We must strike a balance between our worldly hopes with our faith in God. As Catholics, we must acknowledge that our earthly existence is only part of our life-long journey of faith as we seek eternal life with Christ.



***With God's grace, I have hope, so I can!*** Our IJP students are learning this affirmation as part of their Cool Tool Kingsmen ROCK lessons this month!



## Why Do We Do That?

*Taking a Closer Look at Catholic Rituals, Beliefs and Traditions...*

by Lisa Moore

Our everyday lives are so busy. Rarely do we have the time to find answers to some of the questions we have about our faith. *Roots & Wings* is bringing back "Why Do We Do That?" to help get to the bottom of some of our Who? What? When? Where? How? and Whys? about Catholicism.

This month we want to know why Christian, non-Catholics should not receive Communion in a Catholic Church?

We as Catholics believe that the bread and wine *actually* become the Body and Blood of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of a priest during the Liturgy of the Eucharist in a process called "transubstantiation." Non-Catholic faiths believe the bread and wine are *symbols* of Christ's body and blood. It is because of this difference in beliefs that non-Catholic Christians are not usually permitted to receive Communion in a Catholic Church.

The following, taken from the "Guidelines for the Reception of Communion" as approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on November 14, 1996, provides further explanation.

### For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour.

### For our Fellow Christians

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law. Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches."

Sources: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Committee on Divine Worship at [www.usccb.org/liturgy/q&a/mass/communion.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/q&a/mass/communion.shtml) accessed September 26, 2009  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Doctrine and Pastoral Practices at [www.usccb.org/dpp/realpresence.htm](http://www.usccb.org/dpp/realpresence.htm) accessed September 26, 2009



## BOOKS ON HOPE

These materials are available through your local public library and Metropolitan Library System.

### Ages 5-8:

Williams, Karen Lynn. Circles of Hope. After many futile attempts to

plant a tree in honor of his new baby sister, a young Haitian boy discovers the perfect solution.

Krisher, Trudy. Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope. Kathy's love of hats comes in handy when the chemotherapy treatments she receives for her cancer make her hair fall out.

Krull, Kathleen. Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez. A biography of Cesar Chavez, who led a peaceful protest against California migrant workers' miserable working conditions.

Littlesugar, Amy. Tree of Hope. Florrie's daddy used to be a stage actor in Harlem before the Depression forced the Lafayette Theater to close, but he gets a chance to act again when Orson Welles reopens the theater to stage an all-black version of Macbeth.

Patel, Andrea. On That Day: A Book of Hope For Children. This book tells children that although terrible things happen, there is still hope that the world can be a better place.

### Ages 8-11:

Grote, JoAnn A. Anna's Fight For Hope: The Great Depression. During the Great Depression, twelve-year-old Anna and her cousin Fred witness much hunger, poverty and despair, and decide to help those in need.

### Ages 10-13:

Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee. The Conch Bearer. In India, a healer invites twelve-year-old Anand to join him on a quest to return a magical conch to its safe and rightful home, high in the Himalayan Mountains.

Ritter, John H. The Boy Who Saved Baseball. The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

### For adults:

Blumhardt, Christopher. Lift Thine Eyes: Evening Prayers for Every Day of the Year. This is a collection of prayers of comfort, courage, and hope each with a corresponding verse from Scripture.

Crossing the Threshold of Hope, by Pope John Paul II. A wonderful book that discusses the existence of God and the hope of eternal life.

# HOPE



**can move  
us!**

**Roots  
&  
Wings**

*"There are two lasting bequests  
we can hope to give our children.  
One is roots; the other, wings."  
~ Hodding Carter 99*

## Holding Up the Sky

One day an elephant saw a hummingbird lying flat on its back on the ground. The bird's tiny feet were raised up into the air.

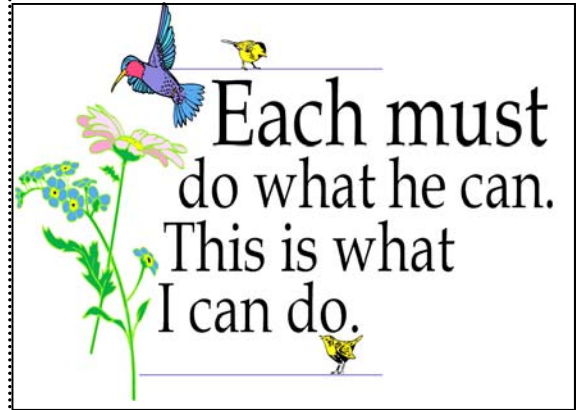
"What on earth are you doing, Hummingbird?" asked the elephant.

The hummingbird replied, "I have heard that the sky might fall today. If that should happen, I am ready to do my bit in holding it up."

The elephant laughed and mocked the tiny bird. "Do you think THOSE little feet could hold up the SKY?"

"Not alone," admitted the hummingbird. "But each must do what he can. And this is what I can do."

—a tale from China



## Act of Hope

*O my God,  
relying on your  
almighty power and  
infinite mercy and promises,  
I hope to obtain  
pardon of my sins,  
the help of your grace,  
and life everlasting,  
through the merits of  
Jesus Christ,  
my Lord and Redeemer.*



## Catholic Life Committee Service Projects

Keep those tab tops coming! The Catholic Life Committee is sponsoring a contest to see which homeroom will be the first to fill a milk gallon of pop top tabs. These will be recycled to benefit the Ronald McDonald House charity. The first classroom to fill a gallon receives a free McDonald's lunch and the runner's up receive McDonald's treat coupons. Winners also receive a free jean's day! The contest runs through November 4.

Look for information soon on our Thanksgiving service project with Horizon Hospice (Kids Who Care). We will once again be providing Thanksgiving treats to area home-bound Senior Citizens.