

Celebration of the day of the Calasanz Movement

Youth Activities



Opening thought (10 minutes)

Quiet preparation - lighting a candle

- Light a candle in the center of the circle.
- Short quote:

“Hope does not mean that everything will be okay. It means that God is present even when we don’t understand what is happening.”

Ask the group (free response):

Have you ever had an experience where you were eagerly anticipating something? Did it come to pass or not?

Dynamic / Playful Element (15–20 minutes)

Game: “The thread of hope”.

- A ball of wool is thrown among the participants seated in a circle. Each person who catches it:
 - Says a word or phrase that means “hope” to him or her.
 - Then keeps a small piece of the yarn and throws the rest.
 - Finally, a “web of hope” is formed, which visually shows how hope connects us.

or

Game: “The Bridge of Hope”.

- Participants stand in two rows facing each other, forming a “bridge”.
- One volunteer walks down the middle while the others say positive, encouraging words to him or her.
- The objective of the game is for everyone to feel that the support of the community gives strength in difficult times.

Or

Name of the game: “Mosaic of Hope”.

Duration: 15-20 minutes

Goal: To have young people express what hope means to them through images and associations.

Preparation:

- Prepare approximately 20-30 color images (magazine clippings or printed on card format): people, nature, city, roads, hands joined, light and darkness, fire, water, sunbeams, lonely figures, friendship, helping hands, etc.

- A pen and paper are also needed.
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Development:

- 1. Image selection** (5 minutes)
 - » Each participant chooses an image that represents hope for them. It is not necessary to explain immediately.
- 2. Individual reflection** (2-3 minutes)
 - » They write a word, phrase or thought related to the image:
 - » “This image represents hope for me because...”
- 3. Small group sharing** (6-8 minutes)
 - » In small groups, each person presents the chosen image and their reflection.
- 4. Conclusion** (3-5 minutes)
 - » The facilitator can highlight some recurring thoughts and ask:
 - » What do we learn from seeing that there are so many different ways to represent hope?

Conversation (30 minutes)

Pope Francis’ quote from the Bull proclaiming the Holy Year 2025:

“Everyone hopes - reads the beginning of the bull. - In the heart of every human being lives hope as a desire and an expectation of the good, even if we do not know what tomorrow will bring. However, the unpredictability of the future sometimes arouses contradictory emotions: from confidence to fear, from joy to discouragement, from certainty to doubt. We often meet dejected people, who look to the future with skepticism and pessimism, as if nothing could cheer them up.” **Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit***

Small group discussion questions:

- Why do you think hope is important in today’s world?
- How can we give hope to others in everyday life?
- Have you experienced a situation in which someone gave you hope? How did it happen?
- What does it mean to you to be a “pilgrim of hope”?

Sharing - each small group shares an idea with the others.

Moment of interiorization - prayer and silence (10-15 minutes).

Quiet atmosphere - soft music or instrumental

Guided prayer: “Prayer of hope”.

(A common prayer led by the facilitator; at the end, everyone can say a word to God).

Sample prayer 1:

Lord, sometimes I don't understand what is happening.

Sometimes it's hard to believe and hold onto hope.

But I believe that you are present even in the darkness.

May we put our hope in You,
and may Your light guide us.
Amen.

Or:

Sample Prayer 2:

Our God, You are the source of hope.

Help us to bring Your light to the world,
and to give hope to those who need it.

Give us the strength to trust in You even in the
midst of difficulties,
and to radiate Your love to others.
Amen.

Closing (5 minutes)

Final circle – question:

- What do you take away from this encounter today?

Final thought:

Hope is like a candle: it does not remove all the darkness, but it lights the way.

Did you know that ...

Glicerio participated
in the foundation of
the Pious Schools
of Frascati, which
is the first outside
of Rome?



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