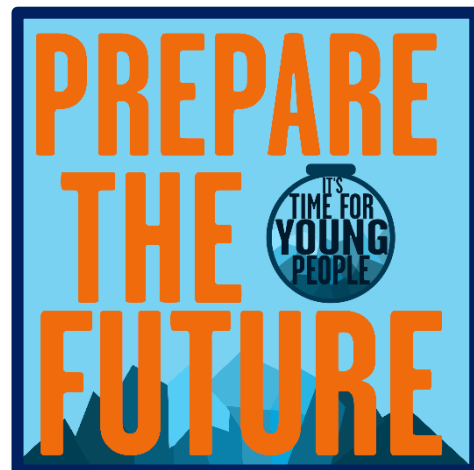


# CALLED TO HOPE

— embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope —



*This wakeup call, provided by the climate crisis and COVID-19 pandemic, is an opportunity for transformation. We can find beauty in the process of change; caring more, living out the Gospel and reconnecting ourselves with nature. Good news! The Gospel revelation shows us the truths about ourselves. It gives us the wisdom and strength to do something about injustice and the rising tide of fear and scapegoating in our society. No one has the right to take hope from us.*



## Reflection Points:

How can we reframe our worldview to see beauty, hope and love?

Where is your hope?

When is the best time to start a new life, dedicated to God and to others? Is it now?

## Reflection:

Using the following link spend some time reading Thomas Merton's letter to a Young Activist: <https://jimandnancyforest.com/2014/10/mertons-letter-to-a-young-activist/>

Spend a few moments reflecting on this and then as a group discuss the questions below.

“*Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope*”  
-Cardinal Turkson

## Discussion Questions:

How important is 'success', and how do you define success? For example, is it about being successful in making the change you set out to do, or is it simply about doing the right thing, even if you fail? What previous movements can you think of that have either been successful, or have failed - what were the reasons for this? Is there a difference between 'hope' and 'optimism'?

## Activity

Explore the lives of one, or all, of the people below by watching the video links. They are great examples of people who have dedicated their life to Christ and have shown great perseverance and integrity during times of struggle and hardship, and even in the face of death.

Imagine you are one of these people and write short diary entries. Consider the prompts below when writing.

- (1) In the first one, explore their thoughts and feelings as they begin their mission of helping those in need around them.
- (2) In the second, write about the difficulties and struggles they are facing, perhaps even their fear that what they are doing could lead to their death.
- (3) In the third, write an entry documenting their thoughts and feelings after they have been killed (perhaps they did not know that that would be their final day). What legacy would they have wished to leave behind? What is their message to the world? How do they wish to be remembered?

## Video Links:

Sister Dorothy Stang: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHpQ8IONGtY> (1hr:06:09);  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogRAW2iRNjM> (3:23 minutes)

St. Oscar Romero: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6h1G8-dtnY> (5:08 minutes)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5aFOwz\\_Ds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5aFOwz_Ds) (2:31 minutes)

Sophie Scholl: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIEJ4X-c6qo> (2:43 minutes);  
[https://open.spotify.com/episode/3MMrIFtKw0cJ2BUOdhQ3fX?si=95dihBxaSjmNh6iV\\_h0\\_ng](https://open.spotify.com/episode/3MMrIFtKw0cJ2BUOdhQ3fX?si=95dihBxaSjmNh6iV_h0_ng)  
(Podcast: 58 minutes) Website: <https://columbans.co.uk/reflecting-on-the-courageous-life-of-activist-sophie-scholl>

Sean Devereux: Website: [http://www.donboscoliberia.org/pagina\\_base.asp?id=1346](http://www.donboscoliberia.org/pagina_base.asp?id=1346)

## Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Let us always remember the importance of defending the truth, what is right and what is just.

Let us have hope that we can make a difference in our lives, that we can help shape society and prepare the future.

Let us not have false hope, or chase false aspirations.

Help us to discern what we were called to do, for the common good and for you, Lord.

Give us the grace for this.

When it is hard to do the right thing, when it is easier to look away, give us strength and courage to live a life with integrity and hope in the Kingdom to come.

Amen.

