

HOLY SATURDAY



*Being artisans of hope in the midst of
the Covid-19 global pandemic*

***Our spirituality impels us toward transformation through our
contemplation of the pierced heart of Jesus.***

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 5.

“Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives filling everything with a deafening silence...”

Pope Francis’ meditation before the Urbi et Orbi blessing, March 2020

This is an Easter like no other we have had before. Pope Francis creates the atmosphere of Holy Saturday in his description of our reality. We have often heard the question, “In this frightening situation, how can we be artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world?” Three key perspectives from “*Being Artisans of Hope*” give us a framework for reflection and the voices of our sisters echo in the silence of the empty tomb. Listen.

Moment 1: *What do we hear from the Society in the silence of the tomb?*

Read the updates from some of the provinces / districts / areas: [Click here.](#)

- ▶ We are grieved by the reality of those without resources.
- ▶ We are in profound prayerful solidarity with one another especially with countries such as Italy and Spain and the United States where the virus has been most devastating.
- ▶ Our call to be One Body is deepened.

This crisis gives flesh to the words transformation and interconnection, so crucial to understanding of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. We are called to balance courage with distress and anxiety.

Moment 2: *How can we prioritise needs and nurture hope during this time of chaos and fear in the world?*

*“We are called to a new moment of awareness and to express ... in concrete ways
as artisans of hope, an ethic of caring...”*

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 12.

In the echoes from the Society we hear about our concern for our elderly sisters and their carers, the need to promote our communication systems for the sake of connection, information-sharing and even for nurturing our hearts; where possible we are reaching out to others who need food and other resources that are difficult to access.

'Being Artisans of Hope' explores the question of how we stand in solidarity with those at the 'frontiers'. In this situation, let us pray for all healthcare workers caring for the sick and the dying, for all who continue the essential services in our communities, for researchers who are working with such urgency to find a vaccine for this coronavirus, and for political leaders who need to make decisions to protect their people..

As we live the fragility of our global community how are we witnessing to hope?

"May God satisfy our longing for the peace of the risen Christ and fill our hearts with hope."

Based on Holy Saturday Evening Intercessions from 'Give Us this Day' (April 2020)

Moment 3: *How can we re-commit to living our charism in this period?
How can we see beyond this present crisis?*

"This ... is another new beginning where we now give life to the imperatives in the next phase of this JPIC journey: that of living together the call to be artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world."

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 25.

"Lord, send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth."

Response to Psalm 104 in the Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word

Holy Saturday is a liminal space where we are living the reality of the present but also imagining the time when this is over. Will we return to 'normal' or will there be a new way of living? What will we have learned from this experience? About cooperation, community, trust, generosity, love?

*"May the light of Christ rising in glory;
dispel the darkness of our hearts, our minds (and our world). Amen."*

From the Holy Saturday Blessing of the Fire and preparation of the Paschal candle.

Finish with a song: (Click on the title to access the song on YouTube.)

English: [God of Day and
God of Darkness](#)

French: [Ta nuit sera
lumière de midi](#)

Spanish: [Confía](#)

"Each time we realize that transformation is ultimately the work of the Spirit, that power is a share in the Spirit's energy, and that hope is a gift that we receive from the Spirit."

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 9.