



You're God's Special VIPs

A Message of Courage, Hope, and Love

Beloved friends:

As we celebrate the Church's Jubilee of Hope 2025, I carry you deep in my heart. You are the guests of honor, the ones I've prayed for, thought about, and longed to embrace. You are God's very important persons.

When I look at you, I don't see defeat; I see strength. Strength that endures even when the world has been unkind. I see a courage that refuses to give up, even when the weight feels unbearable. I see the quiet work of God's grace in your eyes, in your resilience, and in the way you keep going amidst the suffering you bear.

Your suffering is avoidable, and I feel your pain more deeply than words can describe. No one should have to endure what you face, especially not in a world that overflows with abundance. Yet, here we are, hoping, when we could do more.

I see in you people who face unimaginable trials and still choose to rise. And I believe with all my heart that, by divine grace, your path will open to something better and more whole.

Your faith, your hope in God, is not in vain. Hope does not disappoint (Romans 5:5). Even when everything else seems to fail us, God's promise remains firm. You are not forgotten. You are not alone.

Poverty is real. It hurts. But worse than lacking food or shelter is the poverty that steals hope, tramples the vulnerable, and blinds people to the fact that their blessings and opportunities are meant to serve others too. It makes them forget their worth.

And yet, there's a sacred type of poverty, the kind that frees the heart from clinging to things, and lets it rest in divine invitation. You carry that kind of sacred strength. We all are called to embrace it.

Christ loves you. Meeting you is meeting Christ. I'm not leaving without giving you a part of my heart. I want you to carry this message with you like a treasure. Let it stay with you long after the music fades:



Remember These Seven Things:

1. **God sees you.** You matter. You shine in his eyes.
2. **You are not less than anyone because you don't have food, clothes, or shelter.** Your life carries the same dignity as any king or queen.
3. **This is not the end of your story.** What you witness today is only a seed, your future can bloom. Hope lives and doesn't disappoint.
4. **You can give.** You may not have much, but your love, smile, prayer, or helping hand is a gift the world needs.
5. **Don't put yourself down.** If God hasn't given up on you, and he hasn't, then neither should you.
6. **Take courage.** Even when life gets hard, stand tall. We are cheering you on.
7. **You are loved.** Deeply. Fiercely. Eternally. By me. And even more so by the God who made you.

You are the reason we call this celebration complete. The reason Gratia Vobis Ministries, family, friends, and supporters have traveled from different parts of the world to celebrate. You are the face of Christ to us.

If I had one final word, it would be this: Never lose hope. You are not alone. You are not invisible. You are seen. You are not without a future.

I bless you with the words God gave Moses to speak to the people:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26).
Amen

Soar! You'll always be in my thoughts and prayers.

With all my heart and love,



Fr. Maurice Emelu

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Jubilee of Hope 2025. 50th Birthday & 20th Priestly Anniversary, July 10, 2025*