

St. Peter writes: “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” In the New Testament and much early Christian literature, hope is shorthand for “the promise of the Resurrection.”

What are some examples of hope? Hope that points to new life?

Everyday we have the rising of the sun.

There is the richness and abundant life emerging from the earth in flowers, plants and tree leaves.

Soon gardens will be in the ground and crops will grow from the planted seeds.

There is a thin, tiny blade of grass growing through a crack in the sidewalk cement.

These are examples of hope pointing to new life.

Others include:

The birth of a baby.

The healing from sickness, surgery or a sore throat.

Awakening after a night’s sleep or an afternoon nap.

And upon our death, we will be reborn. We will experience new life.

A final example is forgiveness. When we forgive or are forgiven, we experience hope. And with hope, we have a new beginning, a clean slate, new life.

The basis for our hope is faith—faith in Jesus being raised from the dead. This is why we come to Church and celebrate Eucharist. Every time we pray our hope is renewed. It is hope that leads us to pray. We trust Someone (God) is listening to us.

So my sisters and brothers: This week notice how hope abounds in our lives as we laugh, love, pray and forgive.