

HOPE, PERSEVERANCE AND RESILIENCE

THE VALUES OF HOPE, PERSEVERANCE AND RESILIENCE

Henri Nouwen was once asked: *“Are you an optimist?”* His reply: *“No, not naturally, but that isn’t important. I live in hope, not optimism.”*

Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans 5:2 *“And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”*

Sometimes, bad things happen and it is difficult to see the silver lining, to put our best foot forward or to get up and try again and again; but this is precisely what we ask of our students and of ourselves and what Christians are called to do.

Christians believe that eventually what Christ promised will come about, not because they wish it, but because God has promised it and, in the resurrection, God has shown that God is powerful enough to deliver on that promise.

Hope is precisely that, a vision of life that guides itself by God’s promise, irrespective of whether the situation looks optimistic or pessimistic at any given time. *(Ron Rolheiser)*

At St Francis College, hope, perseverance and resilience looks like:

- Trying until the last move in a game of checkers even though you know you have lost;
- Keeping on swimming until the end of the 50m even though you know you are way behind everyone else;
- Practising your times tables over and over until you get them right;
- Leading anyway even if you didn’t get a Leader’s badge.

Pope Francis had this to say *“Let us strive together, for at the centre, at least in our lives, there are man and woman, the family, all of us, because hope can carry us forward – don’t let your hope be stolen!”*