

## Voices of Hope

On a recent visit to see Bill Derrick, a long-time member of the parish, I asked what gives him hope. He has had recent health struggles and a hospitalization. Of course, like all of us, he has experienced the isolating effects of the Corona Virus.

“I look forward to things,” he said. “I enjoy the changing of the seasons.” It was clear from our discussion that he knows how to savor things, both big and small. He also talked about the joy of learning and I recognized that his ongoing curiosity about life, be it through YouTube videos about black holes, or educational TV programs, inspires hope.

I also asked Bill about help, and how he accepts it. Due to health complications, caregivers and helpers have been a part of his life for several years. I know for many of us, regardless of our stage of life, accepting help is a struggle. Being on the receiving end of assistance in a society that values independence can be a set up. It often initiates the grueling battle to reclaim self-reliance in any and every possible form.

“To accept help you begin with the helper,” Bill said. “You start with what they have to offer.” It was clear from Bill’s open and generous discussion he had experience to back this up. I was surprised that acceptance didn’t start with him, but rather with the one offering help.

I left the visit being inspired by Bill’s gratitude, curiosity, and outward focus. These are ingredients of hope, indeed!