

## The Reality of Hope

What is it about Romantic Comedies that forces us to find a gentle and tender side of ourselves, (no matter who we are, and whether we want to admit it or not)?

In a romantic comedy there is a very relatable quality about the film, book, song... it's very human and empathetic to the everyday life of the everyday person. But it's the later part of the story that captivates us and makes us happy and joyful, because it depicts hope.

**“We are not perfectly free until we live in hope.” Thomas Merton [No Man Is An Island]**

Hope is a reality that every person longs for: they long to hope for what can be, could be, and may one day be. Hope is where despair fades away and gives light to a brighter and truer reality. In hope, we find that all the weight we carry becomes bearable and we are able to manage all that comes our way. Hope is a grace in which we are able to meet God and dream together all that is possible.

**“It would be a sin to place any limit upon our hope in God. We must love Him without measure. All sin is rooted in the failure of love. All sin is a withdrawal of love from God, in order to love something else. Sin sets boundaries to our hope, and locks our love in prison.” Thomas Merton [No Man Is An Island]**

**“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Luke 5:4**

Hope invites us to believe in something greater than what we see, greater than where we have been, and more than what others predict. Hope is living, ever changing, moving, growing ever deeper and richer in its infiniteness. The deeper we delve into the vast reality of hope, the more we begin to see with the eyes of Jesus, listen with His compassion, love with His vigor

and strength. Hope is to live with His eternal vitality of life. Hope is the reality of God's love in action. It never stands still, it's always and forever seeking to go deeper, become richer, infect more people. Hope is the strongest force on earth; for without hope, there can be no love. For love needs openness and hope is the key to open love's door.

*O Creator divine, create in me a desire to hope;  
a desire to hope with passion for all that is possible.  
Enrich my soul with romantic hope and infectious joy.  
Let hope conquer the adverse terrain of my life, filling me to completeness  
and rounding out the jagged edges that surround me.  
May hope enfold me and evolve my life to be the greatest adventure of love the world  
has ever known. AMEN*