

LAUREATE GROUP

*Helping older adults and their families
manage the challenges of aging*

Elders Bring Hope In Trying Times

Hope is the ability to hear the music of the future.
Faith is the courage to dance to it today.
—Peter Kuzmic

During this pandemic, the world can seem like a dark and chaotic place. Many of the things we looked forward to have been eliminated or restricted in some way. Things that give our lives meaning, like spending time with friends and family, attending worship services or celebrating holidays, are difficult, if not impossible. Much of what we took for granted is being challenged and we may be tempted to despair. Now, perhaps more than ever, we need hope. We need to hear the music of the future.

For centuries, communities have counted on elders to be a source of hope. People who have lived a long life may be in the best position to offer a vision of what is yet to be. They have learned to postpone pleasure for the sake of long-term satisfaction. A pastor asked an eighty-three year old woman what the greatest thing was that had happened in her life. She replied: “It hasn’t happened yet.” She had come to expect that something better is waiting just around the next corner.

Seniors can be examples of the fullness of a life of faith. According to Rev. Charles Fahey, “If younger churchgoers see older members who are enthusiastic, committed and joyful, their own faith is strengthened and the message of hope shines through.” We need elders to lead the way through these difficult times.

When a senior says that the future will be better, they speak with the authority of many years of experience—and we believe them. They tell us that there are many paths to achieving our dreams, and none of them is without obstacles. More importantly, they convince us that, with the grace of God, we have the power to bring about positive change.

Elizabeth Bell, of Saging International closes her “Blessing for Pandemic Times” with these words:

In the midst of all of that is occurring, we claim our power to spread a different pandemic – one of love, compassion, joy and peace, person by person, country by country to create a better world.

May you hear the music and dance.

*This article is a reprint of a blog
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*For 50 years, Laureate Group, a local, family owned business has been helping older adults and their families manage the challenges of aging. Laureate Group operates eight senior communities throughout the Greater Milwaukee area. Additional resources can be found at:
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