THE SYMBOL OF HOPE

When Amundsen -the great Norwegian explorer- left his wife to discover the world, he took a pigeon with him saying that he would release the pigeon as soon as he reached the South Pole.

Day after day, she looked up into the sky for the promised pigeon. One day, seeing it circling above her bedroom window, she cried with joy: "*He's alive*!"

Amundsen's pigeon brought the great news of his daring adventure. But '*another Advocate*' often depicted as a dove sent by Jesus to us brings greater news: "*the Spirit of Truth*" is "*a reason for our hope*."

The Advocate brings us life. But in order to live this life, we must keep Jesus' commandments. We must, as St Peter wrote, "*suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil*."

In a more than ever broken and divided world, we must strive to be agents of healing and reconciliation. And as the Olympic torch –the symbol of hope- will have been circling our capital city and other cities around the globe, we must remind ourselves that as authentic Catholics, we are not simply law-abiding persons taking care of ourselves.

We must constantly and prayerfully reaches out toward our sisters and brothers in the wider world in caring love and humble service, especially the voiceless in some communist countries. Their joys fears and defeats should be ours as well.

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