

**SECTION 46**  
**Daily Love in Marriage and Family:**  
**Part 8: Love, trust and hope.**

Pope Francis ends his description of practicing love in daily life with the provocative sentence in which St. Paul, speaking about love, uses the word "everything" four times. "*It tolerates everything, it believes everything, it hopes everything, it perseveres in everything*" (1 Cor. 13: 7). For both Paul and Pope Francis, love is always accompanied by faith and hope. Which means, those who love continue to "trust in the other", and, if necessary, to hope that the other person "evolves for the better".

"*Love believes everything.*" The person, who loves, trusts the other and looks through the weaknesses of the other at his or her good heart. With St. Paul we believe that the Holy Spirit has poured out his gifts in the hearts of every person. And the greatest gift of the Spirit is love. That means that every person has the ability to be good. By continuing to trust someone, we enable him or her to keep believing in his or her own good qualities. In a family, where the members fully trust one another, everyone can be him/herself in a genuine way, writes Pope Francis. (AL 115).

"*Love hopes everything.*" If we love the other person, we are firmly convinced that he or she will continue to grow and, if necessary, change for the better, says Pope Francis. (AL 116). Someone who loves can wait until the good nature of the other person shows up. People who love someone keep hoping that good can come from the evil that the other might do. God writes straight on curved lines, the Pope affirms. (AL 116).

True love is based on faith and hope. Love gives confidence and is always open to new progress. Moreover, it is good to remember what Dietrich Bonhoeffer said during a wedding ceremony: "*It is not your love that sustains the marriage, but from now on, the marriage that sustains your love.*"

## Reflection

Pope Francis quotes Martin Luther King,  
who met every kind of trial and tribulation with brotherly love,  
and who was able to say the following:

“The persons who hate you most have some good in them ...  
Even the race that hates you most has some good in it ...

When you look at a human face,  
you'll see deep down within it  
what religion calls "the image of God."  
And in spite of everything you begin to love him or her,  
because there is an element of goodness in that person,  
which he or she can never sluff off ...

When the opportunity presents itself for you to defeat your enemy,  
that is the time which you must not do it ...

At the level of love,  
of its great beauty and power,  
you seek only to beat evil systems.  
Individuals who happen to be caught up in that system,  
you love,  
but you seek to defeat the system. "

*(Quoted by Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia n. 118).*