

You cannot give hope with anger in your heart: Cardinal Goh

By [Joshua Chan](#) Published On: June 11th, 2025



Some 70 Catholic communicators enjoyed food and fellowship at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd annexe after the morning Mass on June 1. Photo: VITA Images.

Evangelising without a deep encounter with Christ will result in the spread of resentment and hatred, said Cardinal William Goh to some 500 faithful at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd on June 1.

In his homily at a Mass commemorating the Church's World Communications Day, the Cardinal said it would be difficult to share hope without first having Christ in one's heart.

"Do you live in despair and anger? You cannot give hope to the world," he told some 70 Catholic communicators in the congregation. These included professionals and volunteers from parishes, Archdiocesan organisations, and secular media outlets.

"If you claim to be a communicator of hope, but your heart is full of revenge, you need God's mercy to be healed first," he said.

In today's troubled world fraught with wars and trade tensions, Catholics need to give hope to the world even more, added the Cardinal. "Proclaim the Good News and give them Jesus, because He is our hope."

Sharing hope with gentleness

Referring to the theme of Pope Francis' World Communications Day 2025 message from 1 Peter 3:15-16, he said, "You must give a reason for the hope in your hearts with gentleness and with respect."

The same Bible verse was chosen as the scriptural anchor for the late pontiff's visit to Singapore last September.

Cardinal Goh then encouraged communicators to inspire hope by sharing testimonies of how people overcame trials with God's help, and how they were transformed and healed through an encounter with His love and mercy.

"Every story can inspire," he said.

The Cardinal added that effective communication was not about impressing people with eloquence, but about changing lives through one's sincerity.

"It is not so much of what we say, but how we say it and Christ that is in us," he said.

The power of stories

Ms Nicole Law, coordinator of the Franciscan Young Adults community, said she agreed with Cardinal Goh's insights on the power of testimony.

"When we try to explain our faith to others, merely quoting the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* isn't enough," said Ms Law, 31, a secondary school teacher who has been involved in recording podcasts on faith life with other young Catholics in Singapore for five years. "Instead, we should not be afraid to tell personal stories of faith."

"People connect with each other through stories," she said. "By sharing your testimony, others can glimpse what an encounter with Christ looks like in a concrete way."

Highlights from Pope Francis' [2025 World Communications Day Message](#)

- Too often, communication today generates not hope, but fear, prejudice, and resentment.
- We need to "disarm" communication and purify it of aggressiveness.
- Identifying an "enemy" to lash out against seems like the only way to assert ourselves. But doing so disregards their individuality and dignity. We lose the possibility of generating hope.
- The hope of Christians has a face, the face of the risen Lord. For Christians, hope is not an option, but necessary.
- Saint Peter tells Christians to give hope "with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15).