

# LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

## *Exploring the Catholic Theological Tradition*

Professor Cecilia González-Andrieu, PhD.

### **Esperanza (Hope) <sup>1</sup>**

When the storm passes,  
and roads are tame again,  
and we know we've survived  
a collective shipwreck,  
with a tear-filled heart and a destiny that's blessed  
we will feel great joy  
for being just simply alive.

And we will gather up in our arms the first stranger that we meet,  
and sing the praises of fortune  
that one of our friend's still with us.  
And it will be then we'll remember  
everything that we have lost,  
and all at once we will learn  
all we never learned before.

And we will no longer have envy,  
knowing everyone has suffered.  
Unable to just not care  
we'll become compassionate people.  
What belongs to all will be  
much more valuable  
than what is just out of our reach.  
We will become generous and committed.

We will understand the meaning of the fragile state of living.  
And out of our pores will pour out empathy  
for the ones who are still with us  
and for the ones who are gone.

We will miss the old man asking for a peso by the supermarket door.  
The one whose name we did not know  
and yet was always there right beside us.  
Maybe the poor old man was your God  
it's just he was in disguise.  
You never asked him his name  
because you were in a rush.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Esperanza" by Alexis Valdés (2020), from Jorge Mario Bergoglio/Francisco, *Soñemos Juntos*, 143-144. Translated from the original Spanish, Cecilia González-Andrieu, 2026.

And all will be miraculous,  
and all will be an inheritance,  
and we will truly value life,  
the life that we've won just now.  
When the storm has passed,  
in my shame I will ask you God,  
to return us to our better selves  
just like you have dreamt for us.