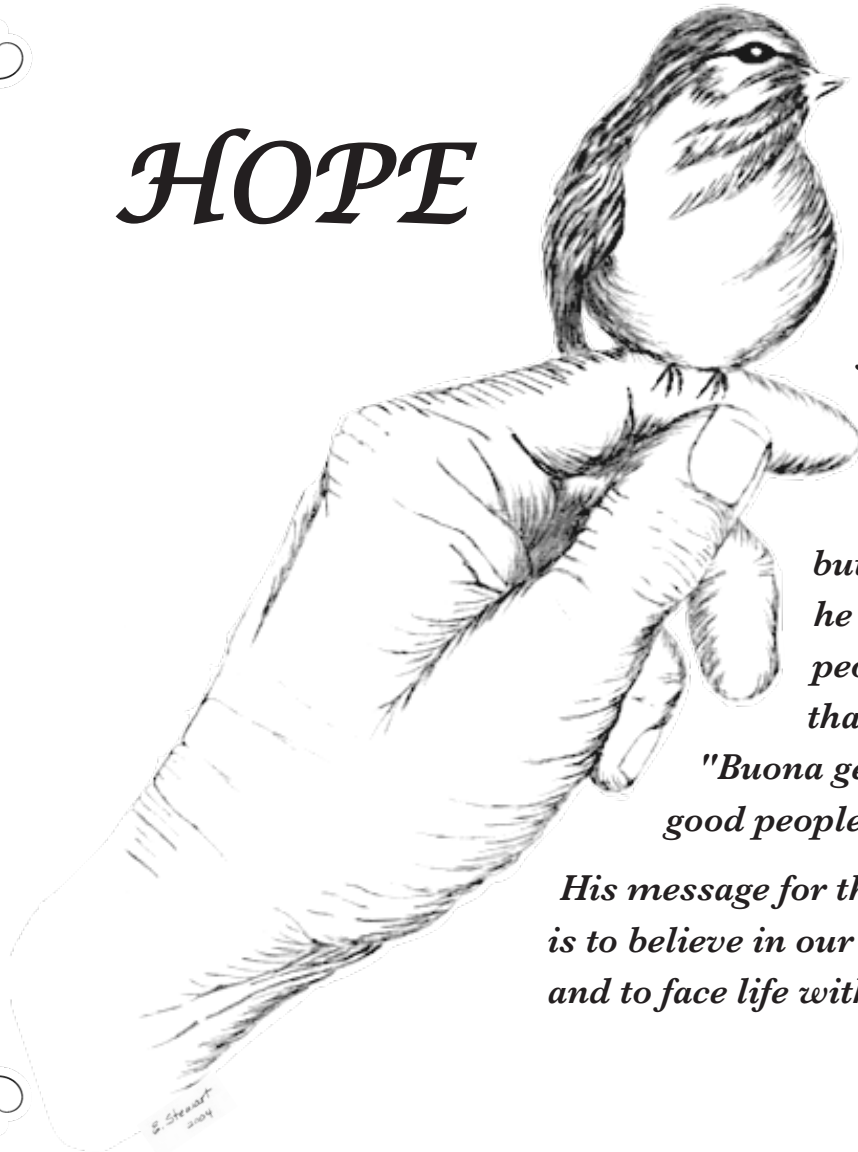


HOPE



Flocks of birds, in medieval times, symbolized crowds of common people, St. Francis did preach to the birds, but more importantly, he gave the common people the message that they were

"Buona gente," good people loved by God.

His message for them and for us is to believe in our own self-worth and to face life with courage and hope.