

Sol of Mary, Mothr of God – C  
January 1, 2009 – Holy Angels Church  
Homilist: Rev. Roland M. LaPlante  
Readings: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:** At 12:00 midnight (tonight) last night, you and I (will find) found ourselves in a new day, a new month, and in an entirely different year without ever having moved from wherever we were. And, depending on how you look at things, the movement from 2009 to 2010 was either a moment of farewell, or a moment of greeting...the farewell being either a welcome relief or a time of sentimental reluctance, and the greeting being one of joyful anticipation, or fearful anxiety.

But, no matter what our attitude, the New Year is upon us, and we're here in this holy place to ask forgiveness from God for the past year's faults, and strength to face the unknown days ahead.

Our peculiarly American tradition has been to make resolutions on this day. As Americans, we always seem to begin things with a lot of enthusiasm. So, as we begin the New Year it's part of our nature to

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resolve to make ourselves over into better people. The intention is admirable, but I'm afraid we'll all agree that such resolutions are often short-term.

Let me suggest that **THIS** year we take our initiative from today's Scripture lessons and work to change our **ATTITUDES**, instead of our **ACTIVITIES**. If you were to reduce our first reading from the Old Testament Book of Numbers to a single idea, it would be **BLESS ONE ANOTHER**. Our second reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Galatians suggests that we **SAVOR OUR INHERITANCE AS ADOPTED CHILDREN OF GOD**. And finally, Luke, in the Gospel reading, gives us an insight into Mary's holiness when he writes that she **REFLECTED IN HER HEART ON ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED**. So...**BLESS, SAVOR, AND REFLECT**. These are the attitudes that ought to be taken by committed believers who are starting a new year of grace and promise.

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Let me flesh it out just a little. To BLESS one another would eliminate the need for such resolutions as showing kindness or patience to co-workers, relatives, neighbors, as well as friends and family. After all, if we're blessing people, we can't at the same time be unkind to them, or angry with them.

To SAVOR our being adopted sons and daughters of God would certainly include any resolution we might have made to pray more, or to be more attentive when we celebrate Mass together. How can we relish the gift of adoption and not have a more pious attitude?

And finally, when we REFLECT on all the things that life has brought us...the good and the bad...we learn that God is revealed through ALL of life's moments and encounters...and that's the beginning of contemplation.

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So, again...BLESS, SAVOR, AND REFLECT. These certainly will make 2010 a “new” year, and will make you and me a “new” creation.

Therefore, in that spirit...

I wish you all a most blessed New Year...

filled with all God’s graces...

and lived in closer union with him,

and with one another.