



Campus Ministry Online

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"If it didn't Bring you Joy,
Just Leave it Behind.

Let's Ring in the New Year
With Good Things in Mind.

Let Every Bad Memory Go
That Brought Heartache and
Pain.

And let's Turn a New Leaf
With the Smell of New Rain.

Let's Forget Past Mistakes
Making Amends for This Year.

Sending You These Greetings
To Bring you Hope and Cheer.

Happy New Year!"

Author Unknown

New Year's Prayer

God, thank you for a new year.
May everyone in our family be
willing to begin anew with a
clean slate. We know that you
are always ready to forgive us.
Help us to be willing to forgive
ourselves and to forgive one
another.

As we begin a new year, remind
us of our truest values and our
deepest desires. Help us to live
in the goodness that comes
from doing what you want us to
do. Help us to put aside anxiety
about the future and the past,
so that we might live in peace
with you now, one day at a
time.

A Time to Re-New

New Years; New Year. Each January 1st, we take time to reflect on changes that we hope to make during the coming year. From weight loss to getting rid of bad habits, we strive to become better during the next months. As Catholics, the wonderful thing about New Years is that it reminds us of our loving God; a God that constantly calls us back and asks us to begin again. There is nothing that can take his love away from us. We just need to acknowledge our sinfulness and begin again, start anew, to live as his follower. Maybe our New Year's resolutions should be:

I resolve to make God first in my life and prioritize everything else so that God and family take precedence to career, hobbies or sporting events.

I resolve to discover the good in each person I meet, realizing that they too are a child of God, rather than criticizing and expecting them to be exactly like me.

I resolve to provide an example for my children by attending and participating at Mass each weekend in order to deepen my faith, support my fellow parishioners and build the Kingdom of God.

I resolve to love myself and appreciate the gifts that I have been given rather than trying to be someone that I am not created to be.

Happy New Year!

Holy Family: A Model for Household Prayer

"The house of Nazareth is a school of prayer," Pope Benedict XVI remarked at his regular weekly public audience on December 28. Speaking to about 7,000 people in the Paul VI auditorium, the Holy Father continued his series of talks on prayer, with a focus on the Holy Family.

"Mary is the peerless model for the contemplation of Christ," the Pope said, and her devotion is "contagious." St. Joseph was infected by it, he continued, and in the household with Mary and Jesus he fills the father's role: "a silent but faithful presence, constant and active." It was under the guidance of St. Joseph, the Pope observed, that Jesus "learned to alternate work and prayer, also offering up to God the fatigue by which they earned the bread the family needed."

After the occasion when Jesus was lost in the Temple, the Pope said, the prayer life of the Holy Family became even more intense "because the profound significance of the relationship with God the Father began to spread from the Heart of the boy (then adolescent, then young man) Jesus to the hearts of Mary and Joseph."

In their intimate life of prayer, the Pope said: The Holy Family is an icon of the domestic Church, which is called to pray together. The family is the first school of prayer where, from their infancy, children learn to perceive God thanks to the teaching and example of their parents. An authentically Christian education cannot neglect the experience of prayer. If we do not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this gap later.

Prayer for Nonviolence

God of Peace, be with us now as we repent of our violence and hear your word of peace. Help us to become your holy people of Gospel nonviolence, that we might follow the nonviolent Jesus, love one another, love our enemies, reconcile with everyone, resist injustice and pursue a new world without war, poverty, nuclear weapons, global warming or violence. We ask this in the name of the nonviolent Jesus, our brother and our peace. Amen

These newsletters are a service of Mater Dei Campus Ministry in an attempt to:

1. Share information about our Catholic faith to keep our community aware of some of the teachings of our tradition.
2. Update our community of changes in understandings and rituals
3. Assist parents with the faith formation of their youth.
4. Provide links to sites with helpful information on faith and parenting.

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Martin Luther King, Jr

1929—1968, American clergyman and civil rights leader

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., graduated from Morehouse College (B.A., 1948), Crozer Theological Seminary (B.D., 1951), and Boston University (Ph.D., 1955). The son of the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King was ordained in 1947 and became (1954) minister of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala. He led the black boycott (1955-56) of segregated city bus lines and in 1956 gained a major victory and prestige as a civil-rights leader when Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis.

King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which gave him a base to pursue further civil-rights activities, first in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance led to his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950s and 60s. His campaigns had mixed success, but the protest he led in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 brought him worldwide attention. He spearheaded the Aug., 1963, March on Washington, which brought together more than 200,000 people. In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

King's leadership in the civil-rights movement was challenged in the mid-1960s as others grew more militant. His interests, however, widened from civil rights to include criticism of the Vietnam War and a deeper concern over poverty. His plans for a Poor People's March to Washington were interrupted (1968) for a trip to Memphis, Tenn., in support of striking sanitation workers. On Apr. 4, 1968, he was shot and killed as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel (since 1991 a civil-rights museum).

Catholic Schools Week

The final Sunday of every January marks the start of Catholic Schools Week in the United States. This week-long event, jointly sponsored by National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is a time to honor the mission of Catholic education, its impact on individuals and the community, and to emphasize effective marketing of Catholic schools.

It is an ideal time to learn more about the history of Catholic education and what constitutes theologically sound Catholic education still today.

Helpful Websites

U.S.Conference of Catholic Bishops

www.usccb.org

Center for Parent/Youth Understanding

www.cpyu.org

Diocese of Belleville

www.diobelle.org

TEC Retreats

chairperson@bellevilletec.com

Quest Retreats

washed_up_dj@yahoo.com