

Jan 2024

Dear Friend in Christ.

Can you believe it the year 2023 is almost over and will be entering into another new year.

But don't let the world get you down with the ongoing war in Gaza, in Ukraine, Myanmar and the climatic disasters. A new year is a time of new beginnings. And as a Catholic Christian we are called to renewal to make genuine transformational action to ourselves, to others, to the world and to God.

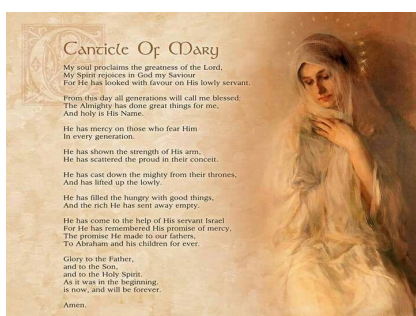
It is also a time to be grateful to God for everything- our blessings we've received; our family, our friends, our work, our health as well as our misfortunes, the moments of grace but also the times of trouble. All of reality is a gratuitous gift of God!

And as we get ready to step into a new year, take a few moments recalling what have been most energizing and fulfilling in our work? In our community? In our family life in 2023? Then like the one Samaritan leper rooted in faith and thankful disposition out of ten lepers, return to show gratitude and give praise to God. (Lk 17:18). You may wish to take Psalm 118 *"Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, God's love endures forever....."*

A new year is also a great time to double down on our spiritual life whether we have in the past year towards God often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him?

Should we fall short make amends. For no matter how far we have strayed, He, the Good Shepherd will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him. For our God looks for us, comes running after us, never lets us go, never relents, never gives up. For the Lord says this *"I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep so shall I keep my sheep in view...."* (Eze 34: 11-12, 15-17).

Isn't these comforting words for us as we start all over again in the new year ?



End the reflection with the powerful Canticum of Mary (Lk 1:46-56) *"The Mighty has done great things for me, holy is His name"*.

I wish you all a happy and a blessed new year. May our hearts be at peace and may God bless us all abundantly. Amen.