



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

2022 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: COMMUNITY, FAITH, AND SCHOLARSHIP

By Tom Hoopes
www.aleteia.org

*These three areas can give direction to your new year,
and the rest of your life.*

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In 2022, resolve to let the Gospel penetrate your heart through community, faith, and scholarship.

In 2021, Benedictine College, where I work, launched a plan to "Transform culture in America through our mission of community, faith, and scholarship."

That's a tall order, but the plan is modeled on St. John Paul II's document *The Church in America*, where he dedicated the Americas to Our Lady of Guadalupe and said, "Through her powerful intercession, the Gospel will penetrate the hearts of the men and women of America and permeate their cultures, transforming them from within."

That only happens one person at a time — and one resolution at a time. Here are some ideas for New Year's resolutions.

Resolve to build community in 2022 — in your family, in your parish, in your neighborhood.

One of the worst things about the pandemic and our political polarization is that it attacks our ability to build community. Social isolation was bad before; now it's worse.

Building personal relationships is the way to fight back. One problem we face is that the entertainment media has "scripted" family and friend relationships to look certain ways: Beautiful people are brought inexorably together with other beautiful people. They suffer from neat and tidy problems and provide neat and tidy answers.

Friendship in the real world is more awkward and more messy. We help each other as much by our sharp edges as by our poise and brilliance. So don't let perfect Hallmark movies be the enemy of good real-life relationships:

Resolve to sacrifice computer or smart-phone time once a week and call a family member instead — especially, but not limited to, those family members who encourage, rather than discourage, your faith.

- If possible, go beyond a call and arrange a visit with them. Before your family can love like Bishop Robert Barron, they have to actually meet their "Uncle Tommy."
- Resolve to find a parish opportunity for face-to-face contact: A Well-Read Moms group, a That Man Is You session, a Great Adventure Bible Study, or whatever your parish may offer. Then make friends with whoever shares your journey.

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FEASTS FOR JANUARY

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of January are:

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| 1 Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Octave Day of the Nativity, Solemnity | 23 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday of the Word of God, Sunday |
| 2 Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity | 24 Francis de Sales; Memorial |
| 3 The Most Holy Name of Jesus | 25 Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle, Feast |
| 4 Elizabeth Ann Seton (USA and CAN), Memorial | 26 Timothy and Titus, Memorial |
| 5 John Neumann, Memorial | 27 Angela Merici, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 Andre Bessette, Opt. Mem. | 28 Thomas Aquinas, Memorial |
| 7 Raymond of Penafort, Opt. Mem. | 30 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 9 Sunday, Baptism of the Lord, Feast | 31 John Bosco; Memorial |
| 13 Hilary; Kentigern (Scotland), Opt. Mem. | |
| 16 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | |
| 17 Anthony. Abbot; Memorial | |
| 20 Fabian; Sebastian, Opt. Mem. | |
| 21 Agnes, Memorial | |
| 22 Day of Prayer for Unborn, Opt. Mem. | |

The feast St. Vincent of Saragossa (January 23), is superseded by the Sunday liturgy. The feast of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen (January 2) is superseded by the Feast of the Epiphany. □

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

We are truly grateful to the Lord Jesus for the many blessings bestowed upon us daily. First, may I say how grateful I am for you and your communications to us during your challenging ordeal. Faith and prayer are the best protection. Thank you for sharing the details of your medical road to recovery with Jesus at your side. Yes, prayer is a power healer.

Happy Advent and wishes for a Merry Christmas.

*Yours in the Love of Christ,
Marie Simmons [Sent on 12/15/2021]*

OUR CENACLE CORNER

Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures

IN GOD WE TRUST

GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

By Ben, a devotee

*Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise.
The lord is all I have, and so in Him I put my hope. (Lamentations 3:23)*

God works in mysterious ways none of us can fully understand. This one event in my life has taught me to trust Him and use His teachings to guide me in all my undertakings and decision making.

In 2004, I lost the use of my right ear. I was taking a nap one Sunday afternoon and upon waking up I noticed that I could not hear anything with my right ear. My wife and I went to the emergency clinic but there was nothing they could do or tell us. The following day, we went to a hearing specialist but after a series of tests, including an MRI, the only thing they could tell me was that my right ear had lost most of its hearing. Tell me something I do not already know! We went to another specialist for a second opinion, but all he did was clean my ear. We even tried acupuncture but to no avail.

I finally gave up and learned to live with one ear until another incident happened to my other ear the day we got back from our vacation to the Philippines in January of 2007. It happened at our home in Los Angeles while I was listening to my favorite radio station. I noticed that I could no longer recognize musical tones. The music from the radio and TV were somewhat distorted. Such an incident is devastating for a part time musician like me.

Again we started consulting different specialists but nothing or nobody could help, could not even give a hint of what was going on. I tried using a hearing aid but all it did was make the distortion louder. This went on for about three months until one day a good friend told me about the "son helper" who channels God's healing grace to anyone who is willing to accept a sincere relationship with the Lord. For weeks, we attended a series of prayer

meetings. As we went through these encounters with God through the inner locutions provided by the helper of the Lord, I was given an assurance that soon I will again hear, sing, and play music for His glory. This message I enveloped myself spiritually that it will be a factual reality in the days ahead. After several weeks of religiously following the prayers and using the Holy oil given to me, I gradually started to recognize tunes coming out of my CD player. Another six weeks passed, and I was able to sing and play music again. Praise the Lord!

Apparently, I was a victim of unholy spirits living at a bamboo tree by the river behind my wife's home in Pangasinan. I do recall having a picnic lunch at a small shed underneath that bamboo tree the day before we left the Philippines. Looking back, I realized how the Lord has used my illness to guide me to a path of salvation and devotion to the Lord and Mother Mary. I have become more focused on staying away from sinful situations and trying my best to do the Lord's will. I still have a long way to go but I am always asking God to help me with my transformation, to amend my life, so one day I can be more worthy to call Him my Father.

Although hearing on my right ear is only twenty percent, I am dealing with it, but I won't be surprised if one day I wake up to find that the Lord has given me back the full use of my right ear. Amidst the daily challenges, difficulties, and trials we face each day, we know we can place our hope in our ever-loving God who is always in control and has a perfect plan for all of us. God works in mysterious ways none of us can fully understand. □

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

TRUST IN THE LORD

BY VICTOR H. ARANETA



Trust in the Lord with
all your heart and
lean not on your own
understanding; in all
your ways submit to
him, and he will make
your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6

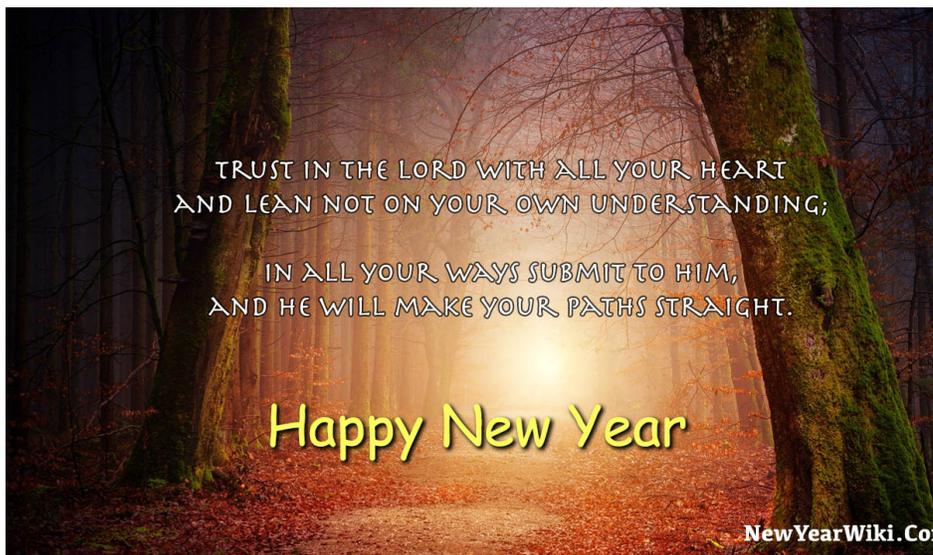
Proverbs 3:5-6 is one of the most comforting verses to cling to when you are facing uncertainty or difficulty in your life. Our situation or the situation around us may be beyond our understanding, but it is not beyond God's.

God knows what is going on - all the hows, whens, and whys that run through our mind. When we do not know what to do or what will happen

next, trust that He does. Let us follow God's guidelines and commands knowing that as we practice obedience, He is working out the rest. "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with that my song I praise Him" (Psalm 28:7)

God sees everything that happens to us. He knows all that He has protected us from. He is our source of protection. We do not need to give in to fear. It is not easy, but we can be free to be joyful and praise Him with gratefulness for His truth, even when things are going in different directions.

Prayer: O Lord, you are here to protect and assure us of your loving presence. But at times I am left with confusion when your presence is not felt in my heart. Lord, give me a steadfast heart so I can see this assurance and trust in your loving presence and let me fully accept that Your will be done, in Jesus' name. Amen. ☐



TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING;

IN ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT TO HIM,
AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.

Happy New Year

NewYearWiki.Com

Upcoming Events

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

JANUARY 1, 2022

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

MASS AT 10:00 AM

IN LAS VEGAS:

CENACLE VIA ZOOM AT 11:00 AM

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 1:00 PM

AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

INFANT JESUS CELEBRATION

JANUARY 2, 2022

IN LOS ANGELES:

THE MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS BEGIN

AT 10:30 AM

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

IN LAS VEGAS –

ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

MASS AT 9:30 AM

FOLLOWED BY DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

AT THE CHAPEL

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION

JANUARY 7 AT 9:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

IN LAS VEGAS:

DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 2:30 PM

AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

JANUARY 15, 2022

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM

MASS AT 10:00 AM

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION & INFANT JESUS CELEBRATION

IN LAS VEGAS:

JANUARY 22 AT 8:00 AM

AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

2022 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

- Resolve to deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors in person and then follow up in the new year with Valentine's Day cards in February and Easter cards in April. Being committed to people who are hard to be committed to *is* the New Evangelization.

Resolve to build your faith life in 2022.

You need hope in 2022. Hope makes the hard times bearable, and love is the rigging that keeps your life working right. But you can't have hope or love without faith.

The only way to get faith is to talk to Jesus. You can't get to know a human being you refuse to talk to, and you can't know the Second Person of the Trinity if you won't talk to him. There are a variety of aids in the art of prayer, but ultimately it all depends on the resolution to keep trying. Some ideas:

- Resolve to pray the brief morning prayer, daily meditation, and/or evening prayer from the *Magnificat* at Aletea.
- Resolve to meditate daily, first thing, before anything else, or at whatever better time you can keep sacred.
- Resolve to pray a daily Rosary; lots of aids are available to make it easier.
- Resolve to visit the Blessed Sacrament once or more per week.

Resolve to bolster your intellectual life in 2022.

The last area is scholarship. Your faith needs *fellowship* to live and *prayer* to last, it needs *scholarship* to thrive. Faith revivals always dissipate unless they are rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Luckily, we are living in a time when it is easier than ever to get high-quality intellectual faith formation.

- Resolve to read the Aletea email newsletter every day to feed your faith with news and encouragement
- Resolve to sign up for and use whatever best feeds your faith: videos by Bishop Robert Barron or Father Michael Schmit or materials from the Augustine Institute, Catholic Answers, EWTN, etc.
- Resolve to read some of the great books available for the faith: Books by Brant Pitre (especially *The Case for Jesus*) and Jennifer Fulwiler (*Something Other Than God*) and Scott Hahn.

Last, on January 1, put all these resolutions in the hands of the Blessed Mother.

We begin the year with her for a reason: She is the expert in building community, nurturing faith, and growing in wisdom. And, as St. John Paul II said, Our Lady of Guadalupe will transform culture in America. □

Tom Hoopes is writer in residence at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, and author most recently of *The Rosary of Saint John Paul II*.



“I am your Mother Mary.

Continue, my children, to pray unceasingly. God is listening and will give signs of prevention for America and other countries.

My children, my Son, Jesus, is on the right-hand side of Eternal Father's throne. And remember, God is merciful and forgiving.

I am interceding for you, my children. There will be less, less, less punishment.

Mary, Your Lady of the Rosary

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