

Reflection for January 2010

"Behold, I make all things new." --Revelation 21:5

This year, the hullabaloo surrounding New Year's Eve was a little bit louder and a little bolder than usual because Jan. 1 marked the beginning of both a new year and a new decade.

The new millennium, which had been hailed with great fanfare only 10 years earlier, had soured and somehow failed to live up to the great expectations. Terrorism on the home front had led to endless war in foreign lands. The prosperous economy of the 1990s was gone and double-digit unemployment was a terrible reality. The bitter partisanship which held the power to tear the nation apart had become our constant companion. Care and concern for the common good were all too rare. It is no wonder that we longed to move on to something new, something better. In the midst of our experience of cold and darkness, we are able to rejoice because hope somehow remains.

Sacred Scripture reminds us that our season of hope need not be limited to a once-a-year or once-in-a-decade event. Every 24 hours we are blessed with the joy of a new day and 12 times a year we delight in the experience of a new month. In truth, each and every minute, hour, day, week and month is, above all, God's time. God labors in each and every minute, hour, day, week and month making all things new.

*Look, I am doing something new,
Now it emerges; can you not see it? (Isaiah 43:19)*

We are called not only to look with new eyes to see God's action in our lives; we are also invited to co-labor with God in making all things new. It is a task that requires us to see with new eyes and imagine new possibilities. Perhaps Jesus said, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter into the kingdom of God" (Matthew 18:3) because he knew that it is the gift of childhood to always see reality with new eyes and experience life with a sense of discovery and freshness.



In a play on the words of the poet Rainer Maria Rilke, "Let us now welcome the new day, full of things that have never been."

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