



Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

Today we begin a new year. What will it be like? Unfortunately, we can't gaze into a crystal ball and know for sure. And none of us has the ability to control what will happen to us as individuals, or us as a human race. It's tempting to throw up our hands in helplessness and say "It's all a crap-shoot."

But our faith tells us that there is some rhyme and reason to whatever will happen this coming year because God is at work somehow. And since we are the Body of Christ in this world, we also have a role in providing some "rhyme and reason" to what will happen. We're in a partnership with God, as we and God work to allow God's love to take whatever happens this coming year and use it to create something that more closely resembles the reign of God. We not only have to deal with things that happen to us that are beyond our control, but we also make things happen that create the reign of God.

As co-creators of this reign, we can begin the new year imagining what we would like to create. This is not just wishing for "pie in the sky". Nothing gets created unless it first takes shape in the creator's heart and mind. Then we take stock of our abilities and resources, and decide what we can realistically accomplish toward what we imagined. We then trust that God will be working alongside us, bringing our efforts to fruition, even though we may not understand how.

We cannot be certain what will happen this coming year. But we can be certain that we and God can create something great if we follow the path Jesus took -- the path of love.

*Blessings,
Fr. Garry*