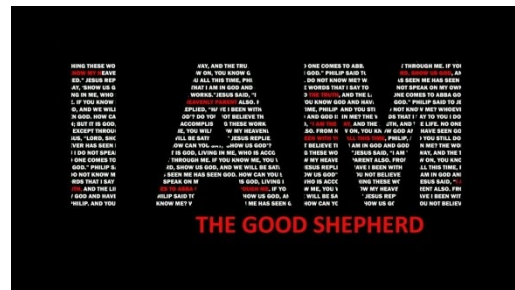


1.11.2020

NEW DAY, NEW YEAR, NEW START Christ Accepts Our Brokenness

The New Year is always seen as a time for fresh beginnings – but the truth is, you can start life anew each and every morning. This is a comforting thought for everyone who feels disheartened, dejected and/or discouraged about their day yesterday. It also helps to bring focus to one who believes their future appears hopeless.



This assertion is not based upon wishful thinking, but upon the solid, factual authority of our Bible itself. Scripture frequently, if not repeatedly reminds us that God is always willing to forgive us our trespasses. No matter how badly things have gone or how you may have messed life up, God always makes it possible for you to make a new beginning.

One of the greatest things in the world that we have been given by God, is the ability to walk away from yesterdays. The dictionary defines yesterday as the day that preceded today, the recent past, something that has already happened in our life that we cannot change...a time that is completed, done and ended. Yesterday is over. By definition then, it is behind us and not in front of us. All we need to do is walk away mentally, with the help of Christ, from our yesterdays.

Yesterday is an historical fact, reality and event that is fixed, unchangeable, unalterable, unmovable and most of all over. It will never happen again, come back or otherwise reappear unless you heave it back to the present in the form of memories of the unpleasant, setbacks, or thrashings. It is best left untouched, not recalled and other than learning lessons on how not to repeat, where it is: in the past.

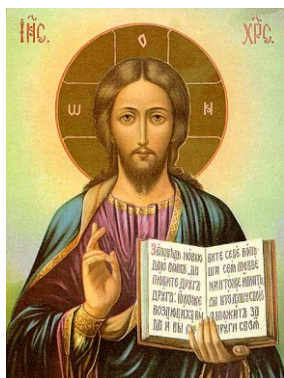
**“Thank you for your Mercy Lord
for forgiving me of my failings.”**

St. Hilary Men’s Group

Besides, God is through with yesterday and has no interest in it anymore. He makes that quite clear to each and every one of us through Jeremiah 29:11. “For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

We each can become a Better Man by understanding that the Risen Christ accepts each and every man in his brokenness, in the very place and time where he is at today. What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus is our Savior and invite Him into our heart of hearts? Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

When we take a moment to give away a sample of Jesus, that goodness that abides in us, we Bless another’s life.



John 10:7-15 The Good Shepherd

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

1 Peter 1:3-9 Hope

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Catechism 1818 - Hope

The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal bliss. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.

Modern Comment NEW DAY, NEW YEAR, NEW START Excerpts from Norman Vincent Peale

We begin the New Year with resolutions only to leave them in the ditch by February. That's only 3 short weeks from now. Unfulfilled promises and commitments leave us with feelings of guilt and failure for not living up to our own expectations. One obvious solution is to not try at all. Wouldn't it be wiser to frame our resolutions as goals, not promises?



It is true that it is better to have tried something and failed, rather than to have tried nothing and succeeded. But the real question is where to place our confidence. Is it in your own strength? Your own efforts? Perhaps a great starting place is accepting God's unconditional love. Allow Him to work through you. You might end up accomplishing more than you initially set out to do!

Concurrently, it is important to realize that in order to have a new life, you have to become a new person. If you are the same old person, you'll have the same old life every day of your life.

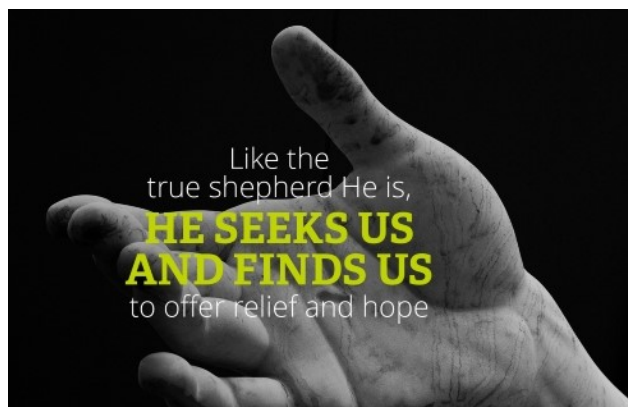
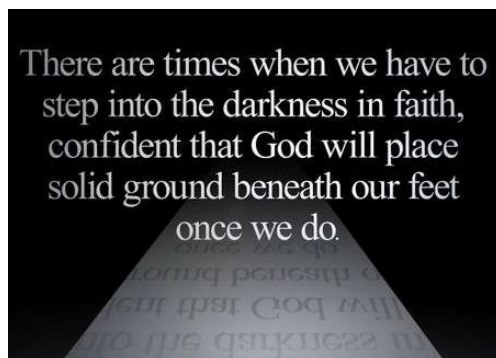
The following is from a letter written to Norman Vincent Peale from a woman who read the iconic book, *The Power of Positive Thinking*. She said:

"I have you to sincerely thank for my new outlook on life. For as long as I can remember, I have been defeating myself with feelings of inferiority and nervousness. Now I have begun to practice the doctrines found in your book, and I found that they really work.

"I never knew before the effective use of faith. Now I find myself practicing my beliefs, and as a result, have a cheerful outlook on life. I have been able to make new friends out of old enemies. I finally learned and accepted the fact that no one was against me but me!

"I have forgotten about myself and the problems I had imagined myself to have. I have put in their place a sincere interest in others and a desire to show them every kindness. I have come out of my shell at long last. I cannot adequately describe the happiness I now feel, instead of the self-pity and self-hate that was once in me."

This woman walked away from her yesterdays. She applied the principle of personal revision by asking for God's help. She was able to remove her self-centeredness, selfishness and focus on the needs of others.



Your outlook for the year, as well as the rest of your life will be much brighter if you begin by asking God for direction, then strength to accomplish the tasks He set before you. In effect, allowing Him to work through you, you can become a new person. It is a simple formula. It takes discipline, it takes effort, it takes prayer, but you can work it if you really want it. And thus be able to start a new life every morning.

Jesus calls Himself our Good Shepherd. When we follow Him, we find green pastures and an abundance of joy.

Lord, give me Wisdom as I write out goals for this year. Show me what You would have me accomplish. And thank You for your ever-present Love and Strength. Amen.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Have you ever tried Goal Setting on a day-by-day basis rather than set grandiose plans for the New Year? Give example.

2. When you have made New Year's Resolutions in the past, have you been able to accomplish the goal you set? Did God play a role? Did you ask Him for Direction and Strength? Did you ask Him to be your partner in accomplishing these goals?



Men's Group Calendar
A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

1/25/2020	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
2/8/2020	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
2/22/2020	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
3/14/2020	Men's Group	7 AM Mass

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to listen for God's will in my life by:

- Creating a daily prayer practice.
- Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
- Paying more attention to God's Blessings in my life.
- Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.
- Forgive yourself as God has forgiven you.



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings.

Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them.
Matthew 18:20

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group



Ask God's Forgiveness, do your best to rectify, and walk away from it. Walk away from yesterday, like a healthy, normal person. That is the first thing one must do in starting a new life every morning.

This you must do for yourself. For Happiness.
