

## *HOMILY*

### *The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God*

*New Year's Day*

*January 1, 2008*

*Rev. Andrew A. Czajkowski  
St. John the Evangelist Parish  
Davison, Michigan*

The New Year is already here. Is your anticipation or dread growing? I heard one person say he already dreads the New Year. He said, “The holidays aren’t quite over and already I’m about ninety days ahead on my calories and ninety days behind on my bills.” Some of you can identify with him.

Our calendar did not come down from above. It was established by human minds. There is no real reason why one day on the calendar should bear more significance than any other day of the year. Yet we still invest the changing of the year with a great deal of meaning. It is a time of hope, of planning, of vision-casting, to use a business buzzword. And, of course, it is a time for resolutions. Ready or not, it is time to set yourself on a course of self-improvement.

Why do we bother to make New Year’s resolutions in the first place? Why do we feel this need each January 1<sup>st</sup> to set new goals? Maybe it is because resolutions help us to identify our priorities. They answer the question: How do I want to invest my time, energy, money, and talents in this New Year? The New Year reminds us that time is passing. It is up to each of us to maximize the potential of every moment.

Someone wrote some thought-provoking words on the meaning of time:

- ⌚ To realize the value of “one month,” ask a mother who gave birth to a premature infant.
- ⌚ To realize the value of “one week,” ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

- ⌚ To realize the value of “one hour,” ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
- ⌚ To realize the value of “one minute,” ask the person who missed the train.
- ⌚ To realize the value of “one second,” ask the person who just avoided an accident.
- ⌚ To realize the value of “one millisecond,” ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

I like a list of resolutions prepared by the Reverend Walter Schoedel. He calls them **7-UPS for the New Year**. No, this has nothing to do with the soft drink. These 7-UPS fall under the heading of attitudes and actions.

The first is **WAKE UP**.

Begin the day with the Lord. It is his day. Rejoice in it.

The second is **DRESS UP**.

Put on a smile. It improves your looks. It says something about your attitude.

The third is **SHUT-UP**.

Watch your tongue. Don't gossip. Say nice things. Learn to listen.

The fourth is **STAND-UP**.

Take a stand for what you believe. Resist evil. Do good.

The fifth is **LOOK-UP**.

Open your eyes to the Lord. After all, he is your only Savior.

The sixth is **REACH-UP**.

Spend time in prayer with your adorations, confessions, thanksgivings and supplications to the Lord.

And finally, **LIFT-UP**.

Be available to help those in need by serving, supporting and sharing.

If you're going to make New Year's resolutions this year, let me suggest Reverend Schoedel's list.