

IN THE RISEN LORD New Year - New Beginnings!

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan

It's hard to believe we are already in 2011! As with each New Year, many of us are dealing with new beginnings. Here are a few that will affect us in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe:

Many will start this New Year in retirement! Fr. Jerome Plotkowski and Deacon Merce Villareal to name two of our clergy, but also many of our readers may also find themselves in retirement. My prayer for all of you is that your years are filled with health, and the love and laughter of friends and family.

A loved one missing - whether through death, divorce, or military service overseas. Everyday life for many among us will change drastically in these situations. I encourage you to stay close to Our Lord through daily prayer and through the Sacraments. God will sustain you.

Employment! For those who are fortunate to be employed during these tough economic times I pray that you are grateful that God has blessed you with a way to earn a living. For those who are not as fortunate, draw strength from our rich Catholic faith and know that God is holding you in the palm of His hand and He knows your needs and will provide.

New vehicle – if you are fortunate to be blest with a new vehicle this year, please consider donating your car to a charity or to a needy seminarian!

New clothes or shoes – think about donating your used clothing and shoes to those who are in great need. St. Vincent de Paul, Goodwill, and Catholic Charities can get them to the right place!

New Year, new attitude! I pray that it will be an attitude of gratitude. I once read that many people suffer from depression because they aren't grateful. They don't count their blessings! We have a lot to be thankful for – the basics to begin with, i.e., food, water, etc. But on top of our list should be the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Stop by and visit Him in an Adoration Chapel or in any Church with a Tabernacle and give thanks!

Awakening Faith Program – we televised invitations throughout Advent to inactive Catholics and the unchurched. Now WE must come forward and welcome them, encourage them, and role model our Catholic faith so that they not only join us, but want to stay and be fed with the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Get involved! Please consider stepping forward and getting involved in ministry at your parish. YOU are needed to serve as religious education teachers, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, greeters, ushers, fundraisers, bulletin stuffers, scouting leaders, senior citizen outreach, homebound outreach, prison ministry, feeding the homeless - just ask your pastor!

God has blessed us. Let's share His blessings with those less fortunate!

