January 1: New Year’s Day

**THE FUTURE**

The Australian Commission for the Future made this statement:

“The future is not some place that we are going to, but one that we are creating. The paths to it are not found but made. The making of those paths changes both the maker and the destination.”

One of these paths is a great **trust** in the providence of God. We can be sure that God is in charge and will provide for all our needs. We open ourselves to his influence in our lives and believe that with him we can do all things, but that without him we can do nothing. We can be certain that God will be with us always, especially during rough times. We are never alone at these times or at any time in our life.

Another path is profound **gratitude** for what we have been given rather than useless self-pity for what we haven’t got.

A third path, closely connected to trust and gratitude is the feeling of **contentment,** like that of a child resting in his father’s arms.

These three paths will surely lead us to enjoy a happy New Year and all the years after this one.

May God the Father’s love and his peace, hope and joy be yours in the year ahead.

Karen Palumbo wrote a poem for the New Year that I would like to share with you.

**May God make your year a happy one!**

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;  
  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.