

Homily for New Year's

Made famous in the movie “The King’s Speech”, King George VI spoke to the people of Great Britain on New Year’s Day in 1939. He choose the following words from a poem to begin his address:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate
of the year:

“Give me light, that I may tread safely into the
unknown!”

And he replied:

“Go into the darkness and put your hand in
the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and
safer than a known way.”

As we stand at the doorway to the gift of a New Year, we would be wise to follow the advice of the poet and place our own hands in the Hand of God. We would be wise to look to God whose boundless love is given in the gift of Jesus Christ, our guide into this journey of new time, new possibilities and new hopes.

The world that we approach, the world in the year 2012, is filled with suffering and uncertainty. We continue to be plagued by unrest in the Mid-east. It is a world in which moral values are debated, the homeless are hurting and politicians plough the campaigning trail with a willingness to often promise us anything in order to secure our vote. It is a year of great economic uncertainty. The fire of hope does not burn brightly for us. It is only God who can lead us through. It is only God's hand that can guide us. But putting our hand in God's hand is not just a line of poetry.

To put our hand in the Hand of God means that we learn not to waste our time but to value our time and to be open to God leading us to lives that are permeated by the Gospel of Truth. To put our hand in the Hand of God means that we learn to find peace by becoming peacemakers in our world. It means we learn to bring forgiveness and reconciliation into relationships that are fractured, friendships that are broken and inner hostilities that continue to wreak havoc in our lives. To put our hand in God's Hand is to live differently by being different. It is to learn to be reflections of the gift of Christmas not only at this time of year but every day of every year.

As we begin a New Year, let us seek to be like Mary who placed her hand in God's and so became the instrument by which God changed human history. In 2012 let us allow God to lead us. Let us have

the courage to place our hand in God's hand so that God may rescue us from the darkness and bring us into the light of peace.