

Homily for New Year's Day

Bill Gates, the founder of MicroSoft, has amassed around seven billion dollars in personal wealth. He was once asked what was the one thing that he wanted. He responded by saying: "More time."

Bill Gates isn't alone. All of us would like more time. The clock is ticking and we don't seem to have enough time. We are always running out of time. It passes so quickly as we struggle to make deadlines that continuously rob us of time.

Time is very unique. How we deal with time is dependent on the time of life during which we approach it. When you are young, you want to wish time away. You are always waiting for some future event to take place. Time moves so slowly when you are young.

And when you are old you wish for time to slow down. You keep looking back and remember days gone by, relationships that are no more, and moments that have become the treasured recollections of our lives.

And sometimes we are caught in the middle. We both look back or impatiently await the future. We are always somewhere else...somewhere in time....but never here.

But both the impatience of the young and the longing of the old rob us of what is the most precious part of time....the present. For the present is the only thing we truly have. We have today. Perhaps that is why the Word of God says that “now is the acceptable time”. For the past is gone and the future may never arrive. It is only the now that is here.

As we stand at the dawning of a New Year and embrace the gift of time, we might consider how we shall use this last gift of the Christmas Season. Shall we squander it by longing for the past or anticipating the future? Or shall we be like Mary who took the experience of the present and treasured it in her heart? Mary savored time. She gave herself to every moment of time. For it is in time...in the present time...that we truly find God in our lives.

The gift of time is spread before us. How shall we use it? That is up to each one of us. Our prayer, though, is that we use it wisely.