

**"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another... And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection."□**

**Colossian 3:12-13, 14**

Dear Deacon Nguyen,

**Confetti and silly glasses...resolutions...Times Square.**

**Interestingly, the creators of the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball designated 288 of its Waterford triangles to introduce the "Gift of Kindness" design; 288 the "Gift of Wonder" design; and 288 the "Gift of Fortitude" design, the latter of which is situated on either side of a pillar representing the attributes necessary to overcome adversity. The remaining 1,824 crystal triangles represent the "Gift of Imagination" design.**

The parallel between this man-made spectacle of light and kaleidoscopic patterns and Paul's Epistle to the Colossians seems unlikely, yet here we are. We draw the analogy of over 1,000,000-plus shoulder-to-shoulder celebrants looking upward as tens of thousands of LED lights symbolically descend to Christians worldwide setting our hearts and minds on the light of Christ and throwing off the things that lead us to death. Just as "Father Time" hands over the duties of time to "Baby New Year", we hand over our old selves and are given the opportunity to "put on love" and "the bond of perfection" anew every morning!

Recognizing Christ as supreme in our lives, and knowing and obeying His Word are how we accomplish this. We can resolve to overcome adversity by choosing to focus on Jesus every morning upon rising. Putting off bad habits only works when we put on good ones; "put on" Christ and obey His Word.

**Prayer for 5th Sunday□**

**O God of our beginnings, You choose us to take up the tasks and to enjoy the ordinary events of our lives, all of them all year long, by making a good start on this New Year. We pray that the Christmas lights that we see everywhere may shine through our eyes and**

**our words and our hands as mercy, kindness, humility and patience, wrapped up in self-sacrificing love, in the Spirit of Jesus now and ever.**

Amen.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Raymond J. Finch, M.M.

Our mailing address is:  
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers  
PO Box 302  
Maryknoll, NY 10545

-----