

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary January 1, 2018 St. Agnes Church

Some people are never satisfied.
 And because they are never satisfied they are never happy.
 And because they are never happy they insist that those around them not be allowed to be happy.
 So they sabotage the happiness of others, spreading misery where ever they go.
 The people of Jesus' generation didn't know what they wanted, didn't know what they needed.
 No matter how God tried to break into their lives, they rejected Him.

Story: There was a young man caught in a flood.
 He was prayerful and very religious.
 The water was up to his front porch when a canoe came by.
 The occupants offered to paddle him to safety.
 But he refused saying, "I am a man of prayer.
 I trust the Almighty will hear my voice. God will save me!"

The water kept rising.
 He had to make his way to the second floor of his home.
 A motor boat came by and offered to usher him to safety.
 He refused saying, "I am a man of prayer.
 I trust the almighty will hear my voice. God will save me!"

The flooding continued.
 The water rose and began pouring into the second floor
 forcing the man to take refuge on the roof.
 A helicopter came by, hovered over the now submerged house.
 The voice on the speaker offered to rescue him:
 "We'll lower a line and lift you to safety."
 But he refused. "I am a man of prayer," he shouted.
 "I trust the Almighty will hear my voice. God will save me!"

Finally, the water completely covered the house,
 swept the man away and he drowned.
 He was somewhat disappointed as he stood before the throne of God,
 not because he was in heaven
 but because God had not answered his prayer.
 He inquired as to why.
 God responded, "Three times I stretched out my hand to lead you to safety.
 Three times I offered you my help....and three times you refused.
 I sent you a canoe, and a motor boat and a helicopter.
 What more do you want?"

A question for each of us to ask ourselves as we enter into this new year:
 what more do we want?

In some way, this coming year, we are all going to need God's help.
I believe, I have faith...God will send the help we need.
I'm willing to stake my reputation on the fact that God is trustworthy.
The question is: will we recognize what God sends as being from Him?
Will we accept what is offered?

It may not be the help we want...but it will be there.
It may not be the help we expect...but it will be there.
It may not be in the exact form we imagined...but it will be there.
Whatever God sends will satisfy our need.

Let us graciously and humbly receive what is given.
Let us reach for and embrace what is within our grasp at the time of our visitation.

Today's prayer: "Free us, O Lord, from our dissatisfied hearts. Give us eyes to see...create in us a heart that desires what you offer. Help us to know that a relationship with You will rescue us and save us from all our fears. Amen!"