

## ***Embrace the New Year in a New Way!***

As we begin a *new year*, like me, you may be experiencing a variety of feelings – perhaps *relief*, or a *little let-down*, after the busy Christmas holiday season – *thanksgiving*, or a *little sadness*, once your children return to school and life becomes *normal* again – *relief* that 2017 is over - *hope* in a *new year*.

As I reflect on 2017, one feeling continues to surface – a deep sense of *gratitude*. Certainly, gratitude for another good year with my dear mother, gratitude for my brothers, sister-in-law's, nieces and nephews and their families, and gratitude for my friends, my Bishop, brother priests and deacons, my Catholic faith. I am also grateful for 60 years this January of good health. It is perhaps not unusual to end the year on a grateful note. Why not begin the new year on this note with the conviction to carry this *feeling* throughout the year? On this 10-year Anniversary of Ordination as a priest in the Catholic Church I am eternally grateful that I received, and was graced to answer, the call to become a member of the Church and the priesthood. I have been blessed, several times now, with wonderful parishes, and many, many faithful parishioners who have supported me in the work I have been charged to do. *Thank you*.

Fr. Joe, Deacon Ken, Deacon Mike and I wish each of you good health, much happiness, and peace in 2018.

*Happy New Year! May it be a year of gratitude for each of you too – an opportunity for grace to enter you - and your lives to become a prayer!*

In His Love,

Fr. Craig