

## **CHURCH CHAT**

**BY**

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**December 29, 2011**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

Christmas is for wishing wonderful things for others. New Year's is for resolving to change some things about ourselves. All things considered, I prefer the Christmas theme. Wishing others well and giving them gifts is much easier than losing weight, eating healthier, exercising more, or accepting my limitations.

But, undaunted, I will follow the lead of the little New Year's guy in the diapers and resolve away.

Okay, I will begin with my annual resolution to lose weight. Enough said.

Since 2012 is a special year (leap year, summer Olympics, and Presidential election), I will also make some special resolutions regarding my spiritual life and religious practices. I figure it's about time.

Here are my 2012 resolutions, in no particular order, which will undoubtedly improve my spiritual life:

- I will stop reading and praying the Bible and reverently read and reflect on the Catholic Catechism from cover to cover, as long as it is an approved version. Think how much more spiritually enriched I will be at the end of the year!
- I will memorize that laminated pew card quickly so I can benefit from the new liturgical language for Mass and not fumble over the improved wording of our official prayer. The lyrical flow and spiritually enriching Latinized English will seep into my soul and inspire and elevate my whole being into layers and levels of enlightened mystical prayer I have never before experienced. Can't wait!
- I will watch EWTN every day and absorb their teaching so that I can become a more loyal lay Catholic who knows his place in the hierarchy and who thinks and behaves with sufficient docility to be a forceful and consistent proponent of whatever the Vatican says, thinks, suspects, or mildly insinuates. I will stop watching NBC, MSNBC, and Fox Sports Midwest since their programming is a deliberate effort to undermine the mission of EWTN. And even though FSM broadcasts St. Louis Cardinals (a hierarchical reference) baseball, the game itself dilutes my focus on the essentials of life that Mother Angelica and her friends articulate so clearly.

- I will read only the books that have an Imprimatur by a reputable Bishop publicly endorsed by Mother Angelica. Therefore, I will have to finish the book I am currently reading (*That Used to Be Us* by Thomas Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum) before the New Year because it certainly does not meet the Imprimatur criterion.
- I will find a parish that celebrates Eucharist, I mean, says Mass, in Latin as a standard Sunday event, regardless of the distance from my home and the wishes of my wife, and attend that Mass faithfully. Weekdays too, if it is in Latin.
- I will drop most of my friends (and relatives as much as possible) who sometimes criticize the Church, and I will find new friends who are courageously loyal to the Vatican. Is the John Birch Society still around? Can anyone take me to a local Opus Dei chapter?
- I will make the Vatican website my new homepage and check the news and Congregational reports daily. I will only pray daily meditations that are recommended by this site.
- I will eat Domino's Pizza often because it was founded by Tom Monaghan, a loyal conservative Catholic.
- I will support my local Bishop, even if he is narcissistic and incapable of normal human interactions, as long as he is obviously loyal to the Vatican.
- I will eliminate Vatican II from my vocabulary and burn all my books that reference that misguided, dangerous, and offensive Council.
- I will go to Confession weekly to a certified Vatican-loyalist Confessor from the parish that promotes Latin Mass on Sunday.
- I will evaluate my progress on these resolutions in June and add more or strengthen these if my Confessor assigns them.

That's a start but you get the idea. In order to swim in the current, hierarchical river I need to go with the Vatican flow. After all, those old, presumably celibate men in the Vatican certainly know more about my spiritual life and needs than I do. I will do whatever it takes to follow their superior guidance. Thus, my 2012 resolutions!

Oh well, I probably won't lose weight either.