

*This year, how can I resolve to accept all our Church teaches?*

Most of us American Catholics have Church teachings and rules we have trouble accepting. Some of us even refuse to believe or obey certain things that Jesus alive in His Church asks of us.

Should I make a resolution this year to accept and obey first, even before I stop to try and figure out the reasons? Isn't that a bit anti-intellectual? No, not at all; just the opposite is true. The smartest thing to do is to first recognize that God is smarter than I am and that the Holy Spirit active infallibly in His Church is His main agency of communication. The wisest thing to do is to keep tuned to God's official worldwide information network.

Faith is the key to Christianity. It is not faith if I have to prove it to my personal satisfaction before I believe or obey. Only after I accept Church teaching in faith does the Holy Spirit come in to help me understand it. Faith and reason never blot each other out. Faith leads to good reasoning. Seldom is it the other way around.

This year let's make a simple resolution about this. This year I will stop trying to re-design our holy religion to fit my own selfish desires. I will stop telling God what I think reality should be and begin to listen obediently to Jesus alive in the Church He designed just for that purpose.

By the way, if you read this after January first, it is still not too late to make a good resolution.

Have a Happy and Blessed Catholic New Year.