

Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

As this new year approaches, dear God, just now I pray;
grant me a fresh blessing to live for You each day.
As each new dawn arises, may my heart always be
filled with deep devotion and gratitude to Thee.

May I bow down, worship, and praise your Name.
Your love is everlasting – every day the same.
In each that I meet, may Christ’s face I view;
bringing You honor and praise in all that I say and do.

Help me listen to the inner voice of the Spirit with attentiveness
so that I may always be aware of Your infinite tenderness.
I want to walk close by Your side so that I will not go astray.
Thank you for taking my hand and leading each step of the way.

Sisters and brothers, it’s time to set new goals for 2023. That dream, that passion, that goal, that idea that keeps you up at night is there for a reason. God put that desire in your heart and it’s time you finally take action and do something about it.

Perhaps you wish to see Christ in each person and value other people as you value Jesus. Perhaps you wish to forgive someone who has hurt you, and cultivate the gift of mercy and compassion that is bringing all of creation into harmony. Perhaps you wish to recognize, honor, and draw upon the Holy Spirit dwelling within you more often.

Don’t ignore your potential. This is your first step! Setting the goal and intention first. I know setting big goals can be scary, but ask yourself, “if not now, when?” So, how do you set and achieve goals? Let me teach you:

- 1) Write down your goal to clarify and strengthen your intention.
- 2) Break down your goals into small and manageable steps to overcome overwhelming.
- 3) Find accountability either through yourself or someone else to help maintain focus and discipline.
- 4) Reward yourself. However, drawing upon the Holy Spirit dwelling within you will be rewarding itself, and you will want to continue doing it.
- 5) Develop effective systems and habits making it easier for you to accomplish goals.

If your personal goal is to strengthen your spiritual relationships – such as those mentioned above – I will be glad to help you through these steps and maintain focus.

Blessings on all as we Journey together in 2023.

