

Along the Way January 10 The New Year: 20/20 Vision

We just celebrated the beginning of a new year. It's a time when people create goals or maybe even develop a "vision" for the upcoming year. Because of the numerical significance, I can't resist the obvious word play on "2020 Vision," which is not something I come by naturally. I got my first pair of glasses when I was a very young child. Once I put those glasses on, I couldn't believe the details I could see. Seeing for the first time, individual leaves on a tree and pebbles on the ground, I was in awe.

Later, when contact lenses were invented, I was ecstatic. No more heavy, thick glasses. Even cataracts were a godsend because I could get permanent lens implants. From an ophthalmological standpoint 20/20 vision may be easy, but it is not so easy in life. We don't always see everything clearly. There is no magic lens to see what's ahead. If there were, it would be easier to set goals for the year or have a vision for the future.

Often at the end of a year we reflect on what we have accomplished. Sometimes when things go awry, we say "hindsight is 20/20" because looking back we see how we might have done something differently. It's helpful as a learning tool but it does not change the past. I have wondered if the church community functions as a corrective lens to help us keep things in perspective. As a church, we work to create a vision for our life together. In this year 2020, may we use our collective 20/20 vision to do good work in the world.

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote this on Jan. 1, 1937: "I wish for those whom I love this New Year's Eve, opportunity in the coming year to earn sufficient, to have that which they need for their own and to give that which they desire to others, to bring into the lives of those about them some measure of joy, to know the satisfaction of work well done, of recreation earned and therefore savored, to end the year a little wiser, a little kinder and therefore a little happier."

Maybe that is enough of a vision for the year, to have enough for our needs and those we love, to bring joy to those around us, to balance work and rest, to grow wiser and to be kind . . .

May you have a blessed New Year!

*Paula*