



Fr. Matt's Musings New Year

New

Like many cities, Paris has a river flowing through it. The Seine divides the city, so a series of bridges has been strategically placed to allow people to cross from one part of the city to another. One of these bridges is named, *le pont neuf*, or "the new bridge." It is an ironic name because the new bridge is actually the oldest bridge in Paris. It is a reminder that everything is or was at one time new. I am glad that Paris has kept both the bridge and the name intact.

As we enter into 2017, we welcome the new year with its freshness and its air of possibility. In Isaiah 42:9, God says that the old order has passed away and that He will do something new. Our God is found in the here and now, in this moment which is always new. We need to be open to the new, the present, where God is leading us. But, *le pont neuf* is also important. Each new moment has taught us something and has led us to where we now are. Our past has shaped, guided and helped to define us. We honor our past but live in this moment where our God greets us and welcomes us into our new self.

St. Francis de Sales tells us to think only of living this day well. He says not to concern ourselves with the cares or worries of tomorrow, for when tomorrow arrives, it too will be called today. Then, we can look at those cares and concerns. Live today well! May each day of 2017 be lived to its fullest, knowing that we find our God in this day, in this encounter, in this person, in this moment! Happy New Year!

Live Jesus!

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