



FROM PADRE'S PEN
January 2009

Comrades,

The name "JANUARY" comes from the Roman god Janus, the god depicted with two faces, one looking back to the past and the other looking forward to the future.

This is indeed a time to look back at the year that has ended and to look forward to the New Year ahead of us. How did I spend that year of my life, which has just passed? Did I use it to advance the goals and objectives in life? In the life of my Royal Canadian Legion branch of which I took on vows, when I was privileged in being accepted as a member? Could I have done better in the way I invested between the demands of work, family, friends, society, and my branch?

What did I achieve and what did I fail to achieve? How can I consolidate the gains of last year whilst reversing the failures and losses in this year? Through soul searching questions like these we find that a review of the past leads naturally to setting goals and resolutions for the present year.

Socrates says, 'the unexamined life is not worth living.' So, when people tell you there is no point in making New Year resolutions, do not believe them. We must set goals and resolutions made as a conclusion to our review of the past year.

What is the difference between a resolution and a wish we may well ask. "I wish I could keep my resolutions"!

A WISH IDENTIFIES A GOAL ONE WANTS TO REACH; A RESOLUTION SPECIFIES THE STEPS ONE WILL TAKE TO REACH IT.

A wish says, "This is where I want to be; a resolution that says, "This is the road I will take!" and, "this is what I will do to get there!" The difference then between wishing and resolving is: Are we prepared to do what it takes to fulfil our resolutions and are prepared to pay the price?

As your Padre and friend, I pray you may have success journeying through 2009.

Fr John