

New Year's Day or "Jour De L'an..."

...is one of the most important days of the year for the Turtle Mountain People because it is part of the 12 days of Christmas starting with the birth of Jesus at Midnight Mass and concluding with Kings' Day or Epiphany. As prominent St. Ann's Elders would attest, Christmas and New Year's involve the most joyful of cultural traditions among the Turtle Mountain People. Most would agree that the local cultural calendar this time of year is filled with prayer, generosity, family visiting and lots of good food. In addition, on New Year's Day, everyone gives a kiss and a hug to each other and visits as many homes of relatives and friends as they can. A cultural author describes New Year customs and Holy days as follows: "On New Year's morning all the children knelt at their father's feet, as soon as they saw him, for his blessing. He placed a hand on each bowed head, making the sign of the cross while making a short prayer. No matter how old, or how long away from home, whether single or married, the visiting children or grandchildren knelt for the patriarchal blessing as soon as they entered the house." In order to renew an old Belcourt tradition, attached is a New Year's blessing prayer for a Father or a Grandfather to pray over his family or children on New Year's Day! or Le Jour De L'an!

Happy New Year! La Bona Nee!

Le Jour De L'an!

The Father's Prayer over his Children

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

And they shall invoke my name upon the Children of Israel, and I will bless them.

Say to Aaron and his sons: Thus shall you bless the children of Israel, and you shall say to them:

The Lord Bless thee and keep thee. The Lord show his face to thee, and have mercy on thee. The Lord turn his countenance to thee and give thee peace."

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

.Numbers Chapter 6, Verses 22-27