

Divine Renovation – Chapter 4 Summary (Part 2 of 3)

Fr. Mallon's assessment of how some of the early Church's struggles with particular heresies have continued to plague and influence the church through history set the background for his observations of the consequences that have become some of the 'junk' that needs clearing out in order to move forward. He names three in particular:

- 1) A culture of minimalism as a result of getting one's 'card punched' by meeting the basic requirements. It is not a covenant faith lived out in relationship with God, an extravagant Father who proclaims an insatiable thirst for us but one of remaining in the parameters and being 'good'.
- 2) Heresies supporting self-justification before God "will never know the sheer audacity of God's mercy." Absent the understanding of our need for salvation, for God's gift of amazing grace, the Good News will never be fully grasped and consequently the resulting joy never experienced.
- 3) Evangelization can only be effected through the evangelized. If we never move beyond the bare minimums of religious observation and the Good News remains undiscovered evangelization is nothing more than a burden, something else to do.

Fr. Felix

P/S We are reading Divine Renovation throughout this year at our Community Life, Faith Formation, and Finance Council meetings. I hope it challenges us as a parish, makes us question where we are at, and makes us ask where we want to be. In this space in the Parish Bulletin I am sharing with you my notes from reading the book. I hope they give you a sense of what the book is about and encourage you to pick up a book and read it for yourself. My previous notes may be found on our new website.

* Fr. James Mallon, "Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish From Maintenance to Mission," Twenty-Third Publications, 2014.