

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

Getting rid of the 'junk' that has resulted from these past heresies requires that we make a clear commitment to the **kerygma**, the first proclamation of the Good News of Salvation.

The discussion by Fr. Mallon on clericalism describes the 'junk' created by suppression of the baptismal identity. Two distinct classes arise, the ordained/religious and the laity, with unwritten rules; the ordained/religious were called to be the 'holy' ones, doing the work of evangelization, while the laity was called to 'pray, pay and obey'.

The normative call of ordinary Christian living "to mature in prayer and the spiritual life, to grow in knowledge, to evangelize and serve others" got lost in the junk. "The clericalism of the past left most Catholics in spiritual infancy, and did not even begin to equip them for the work of ministry." (p. 77)

The chapter concludes with a significant discussion of 'Redefining Pastoral Care' and 'Equipping the Saints'. Fr. Mallon argues that 'the end game of pastoral care is to bring people to maturity' and this requires discernment of the gifts and charisms that God gives to the Church as a whole.

Pastors are called "to preach God's word, to celebrate the Sacraments and to lead, while calling and allowing the charisms that are spread among the People of God to be exercised" (p. 84).

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.