

Divine Renovation: Summary of Introduction and Chapter 1 (Part 4 of 4)

To be evangelized is not just to hear the words about him but to come to know him, to encounter him as alive and real. Unfortunately, there exists a lack of awareness that it is even possible to know Jesus and be known and loved personally by him. The antidote: the New Evangelization that popes from the time of Paul the VI have been telling us about. “Jesus Christ must be proposed anew!” (p. 23)

Chapter one concludes with the description of the Apostle. The Apostle is one who is sent. As a church of disciples we must then go out as apostles and make more disciples who in turn go out.

Questions for discussion:

- 1). Fr. Mallon writes “It is said that it’s not so much that the Church of Christ has a mission, as that the mission of Jesus Christ has a Church.” (p.17) How do you interpret this statement? How does it challenge you to view evangelization?
- 2) What are your thoughts on Fr. Mallon’s assessment of the state of the Church? Where do you see evidence of the ‘identity crisis’ he describes? What specifically do you agree or disagree with?
- 3) How accurately does the metaphor of the lifeboats from the Titanic reflect your parish? Are the lifeboats used for the purpose they were created? Are there ‘first class’ passengers who complain about being inconvenienced?
- 3) In light of Fr. Mallon’s description of discipleship, how well do you think our parish leadership understands it?
- 4). How do you see the church’s primary mission to ‘go and make disciples’ reflected in the activities of our parish? What activities can you identify as maintenance oriented? Mission oriented?