

June 30/July 1, 2018

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Book — The Plan — The Network

The book came first, then the plan, then the network.

Stage I

The book is titled *Divine Renovation* with a subtitle *Bringing your Parish from Maintenance to Mission*.

The author is Fr. James Mallon, a priest of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

The book has been dubbed “an essential guide for parishes seeking to cultivate communities of discipleship and vibrant dynamic faith.” It came about as a result of the great work that Fr. James and his leadership team were bringing about in their local parish, St. Benedict, in Halifax. Fr. James became pastor very soon after the parish was established. St. Benedict Parish was born of the amalgamation of three local parishes. While the amalgamation was complete, Fr. James found there was a lot of important work to be done in terms of the integration of those three parishes.



The book is the result of Fr. James’ wonderful knowledge and command of theology, along with his understanding of liturgy and Catholic doctrine, as well as a deep understanding of what Church is and what it is meant to be. His work was welcomed with open arms, not just in Canada, but throughout North America, South America, Australia, Africa, and Europe. The book was so well-received it brought about the natural result of Fr. James receiving requests from all sorts of countries and continents to come speak about it, and to break down the work of renewal and evangelization contained within its pages.

Stage II

The plan — the *Divine Renovation Guidebook* came as a result of the multitude of requests Fr. James received for speaking engagements. He and his leadership team discerned that the requests were so many that it was impossible to honor all of them. So came the workbook which is subtitled *A Step-by-Step Manual for Transforming your Parish*. Not surprisingly, the Guidebook was received with the same great enthusiasm — but, it still brought huge numbers of requests for Fr. James and his clarification on many aspects of parish life.

Stage III

The next stage of growth for this ministry was The Network — The Network is a process of mentoring parishes from the base at St. Benedict in Nova Scotia. Parishes submit an application to be accepted into The Network, pay a fee, and are required to establish that they are already engaged in some of the work of providing evangelizing opportunities for their parish community. While one of the primary tools used by St. Benedict Parish is Alpha (a series of sessions exploring the Christian Faith), they also accept parishes who are providing ChristLife (essentially the Catholic version of Alpha).

Some of the other requirements are that a parish forms a leadership team, recommending it consist of six people. We began this Divine Renovation process two years ago. Our St. Paul Leadership Team members are Mike Brechtel, Cecilia Carlton, Rebecca Harris, John McGregor, Sarah O’Donnell, and myself. The Network combines us in a cohort with five other parishes, and we have shared video conferences with them and the staff at Divine Renovation Network. We have various workshops, conferences, and teachings made available to us on a regular basis. Additionally, we have bi-weekly conferences with a trainer just for our team. As pastors in a cohort, (5 of us) we have a monthly conference with Fr. James where we share experiences and challenges and growth opportunities that we have found helpful in our journey. (continued on back)



Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Church office phone: 601-992-9547

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm; Friday 8:00am-12noon

The Book — The Plan — The Network

(continued from front)

Our recent journey to St. Benedict in Nova Scotia was such an enriching and engaging experience. It was refreshing to be with representatives from the furthest corners of the world, and to see their enthusiasm for this Divine Renovation. It was especially pleasing to me to see and experience the enthusiasm of the Irish delegation (from a number of different dioceses). The Church in Ireland needs such a huge infusion of energy at this time.

This past week, we had a delegation from our parish (Rodney Hipp, Tony Schmidt, and Monica Walton) represent us at the ChristLife Conference in Baltimore. They returned with the same wonderful enthusiasm as we did coming home from Divine Renovation. Our experiences at both of these critical events was a wonderful impetus and a confirmation of the fact that the Lord is doing many great things here at St. Paul. We still have a great deal to do, but we are very blessed thus far in our journey.

I feel our parish has grown greatly in what should be the primary focus of any parish community, namely growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and opening ourselves to His Plan, and His vision for us to be a Missionary Church. A great deal of that growth is due to your very generous response to our ChristLife experience. If you have not completed Sessions 2 or 3 (Following & Sharing Christ), or if you haven't yet begun with the 1st Session (Discovering Christ), I encourage you to be open to His invitation — that we as a parish community may continue the good work He has begun in us. The dates for our next offerings of each ChristLife Series are posted below and on our website.

This is an exciting time for our Parish Community! Let us be Intentional Disciples continuing to pray for each other and for our St. Paul Family.



—Fr. Gerry

Mass Intentions ~ July 2-8, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Francine Gilmer (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Francine Gilmer (RIP)

Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Marie Lodes (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Mayrene Messer (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Tommy & Kenneth Mitchell (RIP)

Adoration this week: Mon, Tues, Thurs Fri 8am-12noon
No Wednesday Adoration

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm or by appt.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Linda Munn, friend of Teresa Davis

submit prayer requests to the Church office
liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com
601-992-9547

****NOTE the Church office will be closed
on Wednesday July 4th****

**Altar Flowers this week:
In honor of the United States of America**

Take Note ~ Save the Date ~ Mark Your Calendar

June 30 / July 1 — Sign up for Big Deal kayak trip — For all 7th-12th graders (2018/19 school year) on Saturday, July 14th. You MUST sign up to be able to go as we need to reserve enough canoes. See Cory for details

July 1 — K of C 4th of July Boston Butts ready for pick up — Behind the Family Life Center 8:30am - 12 noon. They will also be selling BBQ pulled Pork Sandwiches during that time. All proceeds will go to the Michael Medlock Jr. Medical fund.

July 9 — Biking for Babies — Pasta Dinner & Meet-N-Greet at DaySpring Community Church in Clinton, MS at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to 601-956-8636 or by email to plm@prolifemississippi.org

ChristLife Sessions — All are invited into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Discover or deepen your relationship with Him and be transformed into His missionary disciple. The ChristLife Process helps us discover, follow, and share Jesus Christ. Please watch for registration to open on our website. In the meantime, save these dates:

Discovering Christ October 23—December 11, 2018 (Retreat Day Dec 1st)

Sharing Christ October 4—November 17, 2018 (Retreat Day Nov 17th) *must have completed Discovering & Following Christ*

Following Christ April 23 — June 4, 2019 (Retreat Day May 18th) *must have completed Discovering Christ*