

Pastor Reflection

A couple of weeks ago, I took full advantage of the quiet time that our summer months generously provide and I traveled to Poland. This trip proved to be a great opportunity for me to rest, to reconnect with my family, to enjoy good Polish food, to re-read the *Divine Renovation* book, and to pray. Now I have returned home to Chicago and to IC, fully rested and inspired by the energy of my 3-year-old nephew, and I am prepared to begin our pastoral planning for the upcoming fiscal year at our parish.



As I've mentioned previously, there is much work ahead of us as our community needs a spiritual and pastoral renewal. To that end, our parish leadership team will diligently work together over the course of the next several months to create a new pastoral plan for our parish. As our guide for this process, we selected a book written by Fr. James Mallon: ***Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from maintenance to mission***. If you haven't done so already, I warmly encourage all our parishioners to obtain a copy of this book and to take the time to read it. *Divine Renovation* can be purchased online from Twenty-Third Publications [www.twentythirdpublications.com.] You are also most welcome to stop by our Parish Office as we have several copies still available for those who are interested. We plan to host days of reflection to discuss the thoughts and ideas presented in the book and to officially begin our *Divine Renovation* process at IC. On that note, for those who have already taken the time to read the book, I would like to announce presently that we have scheduled our first ***Divine Renovation Workshop*** on **Saturday, August 11th** from **9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon**. Our workshop will conclude with lunch which will allow our attendees time to socialize with their fellow parishioners. If you are planning on attending the workshop, please R.S.V.P. to our Parish Office at 773.775.3833. Once again, I sincerely hope that you are prepared to respond to this spiritual and pastoral challenge with open hearts and open minds, and I continue to pray that you are equally as passionate about the future direction of IC Parish as I am.

Fr. Robert