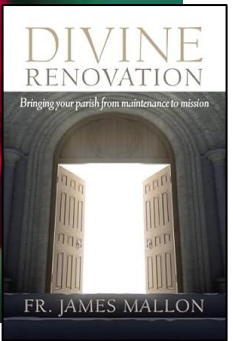


Week 5

GRATITUDE

GOSPEL READING: John 2:1–11 (Wedding at Cana)



DIVINE RENOVATION BOOK READING: Chapter 5: Laying the Foundation, How to Transform the Culture of the Parish Community (section two, p. 123–164)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Homilies are to be “intentional about speaking to the entire person — mind, heart, conscience and will.” (p. 125)
- Belonging is central to building a strong community. “The old model of behaving- believing- belonging has been reversed... beliefs are changed not by preaching and teaching, but by building trust through relationships, through caring, through belonging.” (p. 139)
- A key indicator of a healthy community is engagement. This is “a sense of belonging, a psychological connection to the local church and its mission, and a sense of ownership of what is happening and of where the Church is headed.” (p. 150)
- Healthy and growing churches “have clear expectations of members and are not afraid to communicate them in a way that builds community and encourages participation.” (p. 153)
- What parishioners can expect from the parish and what the parish expects of parishioners should be clearly communicated. (p. 156–162)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Homilies:** How do your parish’s homilies encourage personal and communal spiritual growth? How do priests and deacons seek feedback as they develop their homilies? How do they seek feedback after their homilies are given?
- **Meaningful community:** What attracts people to your community? What keeps them in the community? Who would say that they feel like they belong or do not belong? Would your parish feel like an insular club or a genuine place of welcoming to a newcomer? How is your parish’s mission informed by the needs of the neighborhood?
- **Clear expectations:** Does your parish have clear expectations for itself? Do parishioners know what is expected of them? Does your parish involve all age groups in a way where everyone knows what is expected of them at all times?

Please join us for any of our small groups (below). You may attend a different one each week as your schedule permits. Free books available at parish offices. Please e-mail parishcollaboration44113@gmail.com to submit your thoughts on this chapter if you can’t attend a group.

Sundays

11:00am

St. Malachi
Hall

Mondays

10:00am

St. Malachi
Meeting Room

Tuesdays

6:00pm

Via ZOOM

Wednesdays

6:10pm

St. Patrick – Faith Form.
Conf. Room

Saturdays

8:30am

St. Patrick – Faith Form.
Conf. Room

ST. PATRICK & ST MALACHI – DIVINE RENOVATION BOOK STUDY 2025

Adapted with permission from the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Renew My Faith Initiative