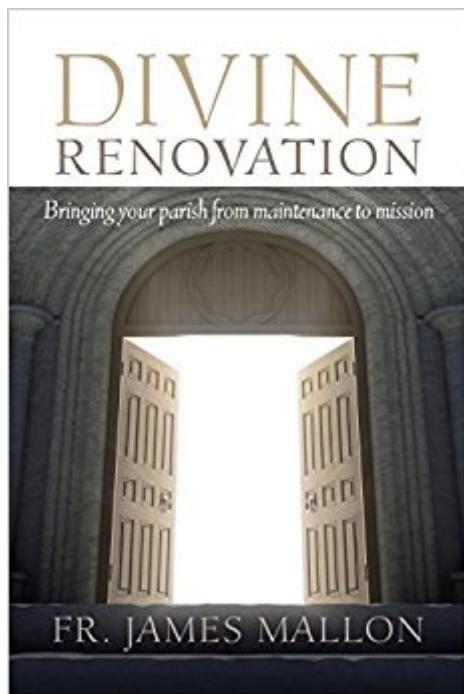


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# Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish From Maintenance To Mission



## **Synopsis**

An engaging guide for parishes seeking to cultivate communities of discipleship and vibrant, dynamic faith. Highly acclaimed for his work with parish renewal and the New Evangelization, Fr. James Mallon shares with us the many ways for bringing our parishes to life. Through humorous and colorful stories, Mallon challenges us to rethink our models of parish life, from membership-based communities to assemblies of disciples of Jesus who proclaim and share the good news with all peoples. Accessible and engaging, Divine Renovation turns to the Church's many writings on evangelization and mission so as to articulate practical ways for injecting new life into our parishes. Pastors and parish ministers will be inspired by this book and turn to it for many years to come.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Father James Mallon is Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Besides being a speaker on the topics of Parish Renewal and the New Evangelization, Father James has hosted two internationally acclaimed DVD Series -- Catholicism 201 and Dogmatic Theology.

I have been involved in helping create environments inside Catholic structures that foster the "New Evangelization" for nearly 15 years. My experience has been with parishes and lay apostolates. The lack of good models to copy is frustrating. Divine Renovation might be the best book I have read for practical implementation of proven best practices. It is a must read for anyone who hopes to see

their parish implement the reforms Pope Francis calls for in *Evangelii Gaudium*, and move from maintenance to missionary discipleship. I found this book to be more helpful than many of the popular Catholic best sellers on this topic. Father Mallon's highly intentional (and successful) focus on the encounter piece (personal friendship with Jesus) is what differentiates this book from others like it. Rebuilding a parish without a highly intentional focus on encountering Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit is like building a house on sand (Matthew 7:26). Buy as many copies as you can and give them away!!

Exactly what needs to be talked about in our parishes and dioceses. This isn't about being conservative or liberal. This book is about being missionary. It's about living out the Great Commission. This needs to be the vision for our parishes. This book helps explain how any parish can live out Pope Francis' dream for the Church which has become turned in on herself. "I dream of a ‐missionary option‐, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." (*Evangelli Gaudium*, no. 27) I'm a pastor and have been a priest for 10 years. This book was absolutely inspiring. Why were we not talking about these things in the seminary? I have a few lay people reading the book and they are beginning to see the vision and have found it to be an amazing, fascinating read. Recommended for anyone discontent with the lack of intentional disciples in their parish.

This is a great book to read after *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Weddel. Fr. Mallon's perspective as a parish priest provides a rich insight into how God is going to revive the Catholic Church!

Divinely inspired, this is the must read book of the early 21st Century for any Catholic truly interested in faith with a purpose. Packed with insightful information based on clear and concise observations of the snooze fest that has gone on in the church over the past 50 - 80 years. Imbued with simple but effective strategies to bring Parishes out of the self serving paralytic coma that passed as worship over this time. Fr Mallon serves up a pointed appraisal of the shortcomings of the Church as an institution that will resonate with many, then goes further to provide answers and actions that may well see a complete reversal in the trending down of practicing faithful.

You alone know, O Lord! I am only two years a priest of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church, and the question that presses against me is: Can I make a difference? I have become certain of one thing: That I will only be able do so in the power of the Spirit! This book has been a reminder of this profound truth to me.

Fantastic book for those seeking change in our church communities. This book is a fantastic read with real world applications and would be beneficial for anyone seeking to layout a strategy to better connect your parish to Christ. Father Malone airs out a lot of the challenges of Catholic church in our modern age but from an empowering and practical perspective. If you know your church needs to be more hospitable and are ready to take the next step, please start with this book. Thank you father Malone!

Divine Renovation is an eye-opening account of how Fr. Mallon experimented and found ways to make a congregation thrive. He tells in simple, readable language how he reversed the trend for Catholics to fall away from the church as a whole and their faith at the personal level. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is concerned about this trend that has been ailing Catholicism for decades.

I can't wait for our Parish to start implementing suggestions from the book, Divine Renovation. I found myself becoming excited about the possibility of being a member of a vibrant, caring Parish. Still in the process of reading this but far enough along to recognize it can be a life changer for Catholics everywhere.

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