

Day 209 – Thursday, October 15, 2020 – Building the House of God

I am sorry I am late today. Tomorrow is National Boss's Day and my secretary took me out for breakfast after Mass. When I got back I immediately went down to our parish hall kitchen, and spend 4 hours playing demolition man, preparing the kitchen for painting. The guys who are going to come tomorrow to fill the holes will have a pile of work to do, as there are 50 years of holes to fill. And whoever did some of the past work used a 4 inch screw when only 1.5 inch would be okay...so there are a lot of holes...big holes. Not to mention 3 or 4 tries to hit the stud. By late afternoon I was ready for a little lunch.

It reminds me of building God's kingdom. Sometimes we walk into a parish and everything has been renovated, and building becomes very easy. Sometimes you walk into a parish and nothing has been done for 50 years. It is painful to rip down all that is unnecessary, so that you can renovate and move forward. That takes a lot of work. But when you are finished; it is not just beautiful, but it is a place that makes you feel like you want to work.

I sometimes laugh at God's sense of humor. When I was in the seminary, I prayed, and I prayed hard, that any parish I would go into would not need to be renovated. Of the 14 parishes I have been in, I have done renovations in 10 of them. I am actually beginning to enjoy it, because people, when they have sweat equity in the physical house of God, are more willing to build the spiritual house of God.

It is also good for my soul, because in all of these renovations I have witnessed the generosity of various parishioners. Many of them have great gifts and talents and it is amazing to see what happens when you "turn them loose." I know God is unchanging, and he is happy all the time, but I think he takes pride in his children, when they exercise the gifts and talents that he has given them.

The plan is to be done before the end of November, and when we are done, we will be ready for action when COVID 19 finally blows over. If you are in the area after Christmas come and see what we have done. In the meantime, please pray that all goes well for us.

In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim Kaptein