



RENOVATION AND RENEWAL

“LET US GO REJOICING INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD”

(Second of six inserts)

Let's walk together into the **nave**, the church's large central space including the pews, extending from the entrance to the sanctuary. The Latin word *navis* means *ship* and early Christians compared the Church to the “Barque of Peter” (his boat). As we walk inside, do you see how different the center aisle appears with the carpet removed? Yes, the polished concrete is a lovely color, but notice also how the diagonal lines created by pew ends direct our view, almost like an arrow, to the altar. This suggests the movement of our lives as Catholics, from the moment of our baptism at the font toward the fullness of life with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

It is here in the **nave** where we, the assembly are called to **full, active, and conscious participation** in our liturgical celebrations. It is our work and our joy to strive toward the fullness of life with Jesus Christ. For it is we — just as much as our Presider — who must offer the great sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God. It is we — just as much as our Presider — who carry the responsibility to say the prayers and sing the songs. It is we — just as much as our Presider — who must be channels of the Spirit's consecratory power, allowing the gift of ourselves to be transformed as surely as the gifts of bread and wine are changed into Christ's body and blood. If we sit as an audience and watch other people doing what we are called to do, how are we ever going to change the world and shatter the darkness of sin with the light of Christ?

As part of the renovation, changes have been made within the **nave** of our church. Can you identify them? Some changes are visible and some are not. Take a careful look around and try to identify what has changed. Then look again and note what you think is missing. The last insert of this series will see how observant you are and to learn what is planned for the “missing” items.

NEXT WEEK: THE SANCTUARY