



Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Pastor's Column

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STM's Shakedown Cruise

"A shakedown cruise is a cruise intended to prepare a new vessel for regular service by accustoming the crew to its features and peculiarities, breaking in and adjusting machinery, etc." (www.dictionary.com).

The year of 2016 is STM's shakedown cruise! Bishop McElroy, the Bishop of San Diego, led us in our Dedication Mass on December 16, 2015, a little over seven months ago. Since then, and it is good for all of us to remember, that we are on our shakedown cruise and will be at least through the rest of this year.

So many people seemed to think that once we walked into our new Worship Space that everything would be completed and in perfect working condition. For those who thought this, there can be a significant amount of frustration...

Our Worship Space continues to be a work in progress. A few examples:

Our Parishioner, Jim Treat, whose background and career is as a sound technician, was implementing and overseeing all of the sound components for the Worship Space. When we moved into the Building, there were still many pieces that had to be installed and tested. Unexpectedly, Jim and his wife, Janice, made a decision for family reasons to move to Minnesota. This decision caused us to look for a sound technology company to be hired to complete all the wonderful work that Jim had begun and was in the process of completing. This is now in process.

After assessing our own needs, interviewing a sound technology company, waiting for their bid, assessing the bid, and making the decision to go forward with their suggestions, we are now underway.

We have at least \$20,000 worth of more work that needs to be done.

Everything takes time. I continue to ask for everyone's patience and cooperation!

There are still several major "pieces" that have yet to be installed in our Worship Space: the Marian Shrine, the Resurrected Christ for the Daily Mass Chapel, and a painting in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

These are all in process and we are waiting for the artists to complete their work.

Once these major pieces are installed, then we will be able to "add" smaller pieces of religious art in various places. But it is important to wait for these major pieces to be installed, and then build around them, rather than putting in a variety of smaller pieces now that may not aesthetically coordinate with the major pieces.

Everything takes time. I continue to ask for everyone's patience and cooperation!

There have been a myriad of minor, yet important and practical, items that we have and are attending to: proper signage for reserved seating and wheelchairs, bathrooms, the Reconciliation Chapel.

Some tweaks in the air conditioning, a window shade that is needed here and there, etc., etc., etc.

Much of what is needed is unknown until you are living in the space for a while.

Everything takes time. I continue to ask for everyone's patience and cooperation!

Finally, there are "pieces" that have been installed, and we now recognize that they need immediate attention, because some things are not working as well as the artist had hoped.

Our Tabernacle is one example. We have difficulty with the opening and closing of its door. With the artist and with others, we have sought solutions to this problem. The solution for this is now underway.

Everything takes time. I continue to ask for everyone's patience and cooperation!

There are a number of other items, small and large that need attention. And they are being addressed. But it all takes time!

Someone said to me recently: "Father, it must feel great now that you are in the Worship Space. Everything is done and you can relax." I looked at the person with disbelief, but I immediately realized that he did not understand the situation. I told him that these past seven months have been more difficult than when we were going through the building process, because it seems so many people expected that when we walked through the doors at the Dedication Mass that everything was complete and perfect. And in a very real sense, we are still so very much on our way to completion.

But many people's expectations and, yes, impatience, have made these last months very difficult for me and for our staff.

I hope this column will give some background to our reality, and will encourage everyone to join me on this shakedown cruise.

We are on our shakedown cruise! And we will be for a while...

Everything takes time. I continue to ask for everyone's patience and cooperation!

Fr. Mike