

Recently another pastor asked me how things are going on our church building/school renovation project. I said it's going great, but it's going slow. At times it feels like the slowest project around. He asked what's taking time. I said a couple things. One is the financing. If we had all we need to do what we want, we'd start tomorrow. But we have to keep refiguring our plan to fit what we can afford. That's the other thing that takes time. We make a lot of decisions here by committee. They're almost all volunteers; they usually meet only once a month; we ~~regularly need~~ ^{often request} approval from several groups--the parish council, the building committee, our own parishioners, the diocesan finance council, and so on. So, I told this pastor, it's slow, but every time we get this project out of another meeting, it's a better project, and on something this size, you want to be careful with the results before you begin.

We all feel reassured by the spirit which pervades our project. In some parishes, arguments about building can cause major problems on every level of parish life. In others, the parish wants one thing but the diocese wants another. However, we've been blessed with a good spirit around our project. We have our disagreements, but a bond of charity surrounds them. We asked for sacrificial giving, and people are digging in. We asked for volunteer committees, and people give their time and talent. The relationship between the diocese and the parish I can only characterize as caring. The ministers there share our dream for stability, but they want a few more answers before they'll say, OK, we'll give you the loan. Sometimes we grow impatient, but we're making good progress. How's the project going? Great, but slow, or maybe great, *because it's slow.*

We celebrate St. Regis Day on a Sunday close to the feast of St. Regis, June 16. This year it coincides with Trinity Sunday. Christians treasure our belief in the Trinity. We believe in one God, but a God with three expressions. A God who creates, who is all-powerful, unseen, and mysterious. A God who became human, who taught with wisdom, and died for love. And a God who is Spirit, enlivening the church, inspiring our prayer, and guiding us to glory. The Holy Trinity is like a committee. It has a great plan, but it's slow. We often grow impatient with God. Sometimes it feels like the Holy Trinity just meets once a month to handle prayer requests. But make no mistake about it, God is making progress.

Some things in our lives take more time than we want them to, but often slowness brings greatness.