
Make Church Matter

Moving a parish from Maintenance to Mission!

In *From Maintenance to Mission*, Fr. Robert Rivers writes, 'Organising a parish for evangelisation - moving it from maintenance to mission – requires systematic change in the way the parish functions. Unless the pastoral leadership is capable of effectively producing this change, it will not succeed in carrying out the evangelising mission of the church. Moreover, becoming a missionary parish touches all the parish's members. Everyone must change.'

Religion is not faith. It is a cultural system that collects faith and belief and then aims at supporting and sustaining them. And, like any cultural system, it is inherently resistant to change. People believe that what they've got is probably better than the risk and fear that comes with change. People overlook the distinction between faith and religion, so any change to the religious culture can seem like an attack on their faith. The status quo gets confused with the will of God. Challenging or changing anything in churchworld is equated with challenging or changing God!

Taken from *Rebuilt* by Fr. Michael White & Tom Corcoran