

RENEWAL -some insights!

One of the greatest ever humanitarians was Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) he lived most of his life within India. Gandhi did study law while in England for 5 years and while there he became familiar with Christianity and many Christian people. One of his most poignant comments was; *“I came to love Jesus Christ but I don’t like many Christians as so few of them really try to be Christ like.”*

Renewal could be described as simply the decision for people to return to their faith sources. Experience has shown me that it’s so much more than just changing worship rituals or the replacing of old administration structures with new ones. And it’s definitely not realized in having endless meetings and seminars that produce manifestos that so often just get stored away!

A metaphor that I have found helpful regarding *renewal* is to compare it to an anemic person who is restored to good health by the transfer of healthy blood. Religious renewal needs to begin within a person beginning with them accepting the truth of God’s word and for a Christian especially those of a Catholic tradition is in embracing the vitality that they can gain from the sacraments and their faith community.

Jesus of Nazareth sums up this reality in these words; *“Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them is like a foolish man who has built his house on sand.”* (Matthew Ch. 7 verse 20) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*