



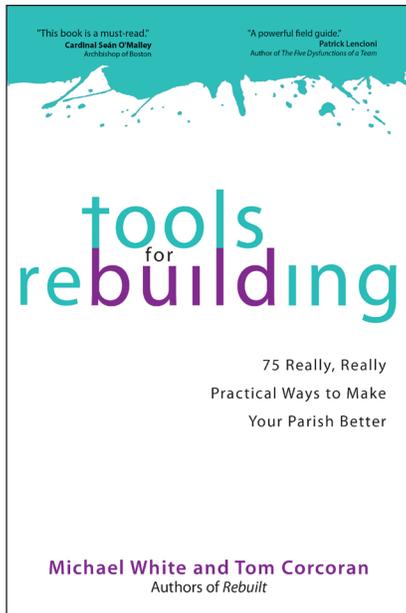
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Ave Maria Press, Inc. • P.O. Box 428 • Notre Dame, IN • 46556

WHITE AND CORCORAN TO CATHOLIC PARISHES: “MAKE DISCIPLES! THAT MEANS CLEAN YOUR NURSERY!”



Notre Dame, IN—

Fr. Michael White and lay minister Tom Corcoran know that the fundamental work of the Church is to evangelize—to introduce people to Christ and make them disciples. In their barn-burning first book, *Rebuilt*, White and Corcoran offered their own trial-and-error story of Catholic parish life plus intelligent, solidly orthodox principles for making Church matter.

But are the details, as architect Mies van der Rohe once said, where the devil dwells? Or, as with the Tower of Babel building project, is language to blame for the confusion? It's a bit of both, say White and Corcoran. While the New Testament's Greek word for church (*ekklesia*) refers to a movement of people, the English word for church derives from a German word (*kirche*) that refers to a building.

Focusing on the movement of God's people (*ekklesia*) is the essential starting point, according to White and Corcoran. And then someone still needs to clean the nursery (*kirche*). *Tools for Rebuilding* shows how to cast a vision for the former and still get the latter done. Here are some of their proven strategies:

SEAL UP THE POOR BOXES KNOW WHO'S NOT HERE GREET GUESTS PREACH THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FUNERALS ARE SCUD MISSILES CHRISTMAS IS OVER, SO THROW OUT THE DEAD POINSETTIAS STOP ADVERTISING (OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF) IN YOUR BULLETIN START GETTING RID OF FUNDRAISERS COMFORT OUTSIDERS, CHALLENGE INSIDERS WHEN IT COMES TO FIRST COMMUNION, PUT DOWN THE CARROT AND STICK SERIOUSLY, SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STOP ANNOUNCING MASS INTENTIONS STOP TRYING TO MAKE PEOPLE GO TO CHURCH, AND MAKE CHURCH MATTER

Their winning candor and passion for excellent pastoral ministry have captured the minds and hearts of Catholics—more than 50,000 copies of *Rebuilt* sold in a mere eight months. Now, in their eagerly anticipated second book, *Tools for Rebuilding*, White and Corcoran lay out seventy-five practical, proven strategies for making parishes better.

While Pope Francis makes waves with his determination to rebuild the Church Universal, White and Corcoran, like most Catholics, are close to the issues at the level of Church Local and are the first to admit that “the difficulty comes when we reach down into the details.”

White and Corcoran provide seventy-five brief chapters with helpful tactical tools for managing strategic vision, the building, the office, communication, people, the weekend, preaching, sacraments, kids and students, money, staff, criticism, and even fun.

“This book is a must-read.”

Cardinal Sean O'Malley
Archbishop of Boston

“A powerful field guide.”

Patrick Lencioni
Author of *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

MICHAEL WHITE received his bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland and his graduate degrees in sacred theology and ecclesiology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. After being ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, he worked for five years as personal secretary to William Cardinal Keeler, who was then archbishop. During that time, he served as the director of the papal visit of Pope John Paul II to Baltimore.

During his tenure as pastor at Church of the Nativity, the church has almost tripled in weekend attendance, from 1,400 to more than 4,000. More importantly, the commitment to the mission of the Church has grown, evidenced by the significant increase of giving and service in ministry. White is coauthor of *Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter*.

TOM CORCORAN received his bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland and completed his graduate work in theology with Franciscan University of Steubenville. Corcoran has served Church of the Nativity in a variety of roles that give him a unique perspective on parish ministry and leadership. Beginning as a youth minister, Corcoran later held positions as coordinator of children's ministry and director of small groups. He currently serves in the position of associate to the pastor and is responsible for weekend message development, strategic planning, and staff development. Corcoran is coauthor of *Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter*.



EXCERPT

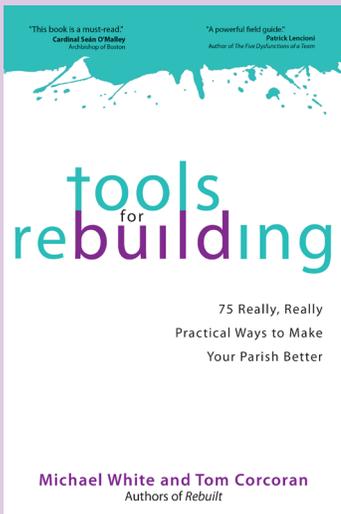
“THE BUILDING PROJECT WE JOIN CHRIST IN IS NOT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING, OR THE MAINTENANCE OF A MUSEUM; IT’S NOT A MONUMENT TO BE VIEWED OR A DESTINATION TO BE VISITED; IT’S A MOVEMENT. SO, IT HAS TO MOVE. AND IT IS A GROWING MOVEMENT OF GROWING DISCIPLES WHO ARE GATHERING MORE PEOPLE, WHO ARE NOT DISCIPLES, TO BECOME DISCIPLES.”

SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Parish ministry can be overwhelming. How can doing more lighten the load?
- What has surprised you most since Nativity began its transformation?
- What would you say to the pastors and lay associates who right now feel like giving up?
- How do you balance adopting megachurch and business strategies with the heart of Catholic faith?



PRAISE FOR *TOOLS FOR REBUILDING*



Tools for Rebuilding

*75 Really, Really Practical Ways
to Make Your Parish Better*

By: Michael White and Tom Corcoran

ISBN: 978-1-59471-444-3

320 pages • \$16.95 • Paperback

Christian Ministry / Pastoral Resources

Available November 25, 2013

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"In a friendly and accessible style, the authors of *Tools for Rebuilding* help pastors and parish staff members take a fresh look at many dimensions of parish life and shape them in ways that will bring people closer to the Lord—the ultimate goal of all parish life."

Cardinal Francis George
Archbishop of Chicago

"As thought-provoking as the authors' first book, *Rebuilt*, this sequel provides ways to revitalize the American parish. Not everyone will agree with or implement everything, but everyone who reads this important book will come away with a lot to think about, pray over, and use in day-to-day pastoral ministry. A must-read and a must-discuss for parish ministers!"

Msgr. Kevin Irwin
Former Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies
Catholic University of America

"An insightful and compelling collection of practical ideas and strategies sure to bring fresh life to parish engagement and renewal. Read and let the weaving of scripture, story, and down-to-earth initiatives enrich, expand, and deepen your parish leadership efforts."

Sister Edith Prendergast
Director of the Office of Religious Education
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

"I am very excited for this book! It won't make rebuilding your parish easy, but it will give you practical, tested, and doable steps to help you succeed when you're ready to work at doing Christ's mission."

Diana Macalintal
Director of Worship
Diocese of San Jose

"Alleluia, they've done it again! Fr. Michael White and Mr. Tom Corcoran are two voices crying in the wilderness, 'It's not business as usual!' In *Rebuilt* they gave us hope that renewal was possible for a parish and a vision of what it could look like. In *Tools for Rebuilding*, they help Catholic parish leaders with wonderful tools to develop a strategy for renewal. Both things are vital, for vision without strategy is hallucination. There is no hallucination in this book but rather simple, pure, double-distilled wisdom that is aged more than fifteen years and is ready to pour and enjoy. It will inspire you, challenge you to your toes, and move you to get to work on the great task of the New Evangelization."

Rev. James Mallon
Pastor and Founder/Director of the *John Paul II Media Institute*

"'Rebuild my church' was the charge given to Francis in the thirteenth century, but there was no road map. In our time, *Tools for Rebuilding* gives precisely that: practical guidelines for evangelization and forming disciples. An invaluable resource for parish leaders."

Zeni Fox
Professor of Pastoral Theology
Seton Hall University