

Spring Cleanin' Time!

I will bet there are people reading this article who remember the annual ritual known as “Spring Cleaning.” Who knows? Maybe some of us still observe this age-old tradition.

In my much, much younger years, I remember around this time every year my mother would spend at least a week (or two, if she went on a painting binge) pulling down every curtain in the house for washing and ironing, washing windows inside and out, shampooing the living room carpet, stripping—then re-waxing—all the other home floor surfaces, and going through what seemed like gallons of Pine-Sol, as she washed every floor board, window sill, and crown molding in the house. And believe you me, once my sister and I were old enough to handle one of those heavy string mops and climb ladders safely, we were pressed into service, giving Mom more time to do things like defrost refrigerators, freezers, and pull out all the kitchen appliances so she could scrub the floors and walls where they were located.

As much as I disliked this annual ritual, however, I have to admit I loved the way the house smelled once we completed our chores. We would always open the windows, and the warm, spring breeze blowing through the house just added to the “freshness factor.” Something that always surprised me, too, was even though my Mom was a great housekeeper, spring cleaning always turned up all kinds of extra unexpected “stuff” that needed to go.

I think we can make some broad comparisons here with our spiritual lives. For example, most of us probably keep a decent “spiritual house.” When, though, was the last time we did a little “spiritual spring cleaning”? That is, when was the last time we “freshened up” our spiritual lives by incorporating some challenging readings and dialogue with diverse people into our lives? When was the last time we replaced some of our comfortable—yet worn and perhaps dusty—spiritual “furniture” (practices) with other spiritual practices that stretch us a bit? Or, if we lean a bit heavily on the intellectual side of our faith, when was the last time we got our hands dirty in service to others?

As we move into the spring season, I encourage each of us to open wide the windows of our lives and allow the fresh, warm breeze of the Holy Spirit to blow through, refreshing our attitudes and outlooks, and encouraging us to reach out to one another and to others as we move forward in faith.

You bring the mop and bucket—I'll bring the Pine-Sol.

Peace,

Pastor Danny