

Almost five years ago, as I was admiring the recently renovated parish hall, I looked over at the cathedral and suddenly a Scripture passage came to my mind from the lips of King David: “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of the Lord dwells in a tent!” (II Samuel 7). The cathedral seemed ugly to me, especially the exterior; the interior, on the other hand, I found quite beautiful. And at that very moment I felt an urgent call within me. It was a call of love for the house of the Lord and I heard the voice of Christ saying, “Zeal for your house consumes me” (John 2:17). And that is how the adventure of renovating our cathedral church began.

While this work was being completed and we were considering various options, I was reassured by an event that took place in my family as we prepared to celebrate my dear father’s 80th birthday. My brothers and I got together to give him a big surprise: a new house, totally new, that we were going to give him as a present. When he found out what we were planning on doing, he became very sad, for he feared that he would feel lost in a new house and that he wouldn’t feel at home in something new. That’s when we decided to renovate his old house where he lived for nearly half a century. Once the work was done, he invited his neighbors, beaming with joy, and said to them, “Have you seen the renovation work I’ve done? I threw out everything I didn’t like and that was useless and the house stayed the same as ever”. I believe the same is the case with our church. Here we have it completely renovated but we haven’t lost any of the essentials.

Today, at this most important and meaningful moment for all of us, especially for our diocese, on this day when we celebrate the rededication of our cathedral church and erect it as a shrine in honor of Our Lady das Grotas, I am inspired by my father St. Augustine.





love of God.