



## THE HIGH PLAINS PREACHER

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle.

### Blue Bathtub

by Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer

A couple weeks back, a blue bathtub took up most of the space on the front porch of the rectory. That's because we hired a parishioner of ours, Wade Reeb, to renovate the parish house.

I'm going to miss the 1950's blue bathtub and its complementary pink bathroom tile, but I'm looking forward to the improvements that Wade has planned for the house. Wade has done work for the parish before. He's a good carpenter.

Yesterday he hung sheetrock in the hallway. I asked if he was keeping busy this summer and said he had a couple of room additions on his list after he finished the rectory.

This brought to mind the story in the Book of Kings about a woman and her husband who add a room to their house for the prophet to stay whenever he passed through their region. As far as I know, it's the only passage in the Bible that talks about home improvement.

So, I suggest to Wade that, if and when if he ever has a tough day at work, he should invoke not only the intercession of St. Joseph the carpenter but also that of the prophet Elisha, the patron saint of room additions.

What can a room addition teach us about the life of faith? Well., let's position ourselves next to Elisha when he looks through the doorway of the new room. As we gaze at the new bed, the new desk, the newly painted walls, what might God be whispering in our ears?

Is he asking us to add a room to our spiritual house for Him? As did St. Joseph on a cold night in Bethlehem. As did Martha and Mary when they welcomed the Lord into their home in the village of Bethany. As did the person who owned the house in Jerusalem with the Upper Room where, on the night of the Last Supper, the Lord gave to the Church the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Are we ready to make room for the Lord? To make room in our day to pray? To make room in our day to serve? To make room to believe and trust and hope in the One who stands at the door and knocks?

Will we open that door and say, "Welcome, Lord! Welcome to my house! Enter into my life and take possession of my heart. Here is your room, Lord. A special room. A room constructed just for you!"