

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

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Meanderings... | Parish Bulletin – December 20 & 21, 2008

BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

The Christmas Shopping Sprint

LIKE most people, Christmas shopping is a chore! I'm a very precise shopper though. I make a list, check it twice, and plot a course through the various stores.

This year was made somewhat easier as early on mom and I had decided to get my nieces and nephews a Play Station. That was purchased back in October, so that eliminated five items in one swoop. My brother is easy. Pop into the nearest dollar store and look in the bargain bin. This year he is getting a miniature Santa Claus egg whisk. It was a little more than the regular 50 cent special, but after all, he has helped me out here a couple of times, so I figured he was worth the splurge.

My other two brothers are a little more difficult. My youngest brother is satisfied with anything from the Toronto Maple Leafs. I found a thermal bottle holder so he can sit and enjoy the game, well, with the way they have been playing, I'm not sure the word is 'enjoy', but he can sit and have a cold one.

My last brother is the business man. I had never bought a tie for anyone before, but I saw this gorgeous tie that I thought might suit him. When I checked the price, it was more than what I pay for most of my clothes, but well, he did provide me with some incredible nieces and nephews, so I have to keep him happy.

Mom was kind of easy this year, but since she reads *Meanderings* to spy on what I have said about her, I will have to let you know later.

The hardest part is shopping for the sisters-in-law. Whatever gift, it has to balance a sense of not too personal, yet not too generic. I phoned my mom from the mall and said I was standing in front of tablecloths. Did that strike that balance? Or was I relegated to the generic racks in the middle of the aisles, you know, the soap baskets, or 'teas from around the world'. She thought the tablecloths would be good, so I bounded off to Dairy Queen for a celebratory vanilla shake, and returned to purchase the tableware. They were pricier than I would have liked, but keep the family happy...

My shopping was complete. In less than two-and-a-quarter hours, I had completed my list, and Christmas shopping 2008 was finished. Again, I checked my list to ensure that I had everyone covered. When I got up to the cash register, the clerk scanned the price tag, and they both came up as half price. A Christmas miracle!

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