

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

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Meanderings...

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BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

THE whole internet phenomenon has been a boon for so many people, but of the least likely to climb on board this techno train, I thought, would be my mother. She shocked the heck out of us when she said that she wanted a computer for Christmas, though we should have had an inkling when a few years before that, she included a Nintendo on her Santa list.

Anyway, after some rough starts, she has mastered her small segment of computer life. Recently she purchased a Webcam, because she and her best friend since High School, play online games every day, communicate on MSN, and now watch and giggle at each other through the internet.

My mom's friend now lives in Newfoundland so the internet has provided a cheap and easy way of bridging the distance, and in a way -- time. Well, mom was invited down to Newfoundland for a week of catching up, though with them 'web chatting' every day, I hardly think there is anything to catch up on.

So mom left last Thursday, with a crammed suitcase, flying directly to St. John's. Her friend who lives in the sticks of Newfoundland (which is kind of redundant anyway) was looking forward to a week in the big city. They had planned their whole itinerary. Mom was being picked up at the airport and shuttled to this new hotel complex. As coincidences go, our own Judy from the Office, who was also in Newfoundland for her son's university graduation, was in the room next door, and served as the unofficial welcoming committee. I don't know if "Screech" was involved. The next day the two travelers set out to a craft show. Everyone was so hospitable and friendly, everyone that is, except one, the hooligan who slipped into mom's purse and stole her wallet. All her credit cards and identification are lost. That meant that she phoned here to get them all cancelled.

Luckily she had left her passport at home so it is being couriered to her so she can get on the plane and come home. When she arrives she will need to replace driver's license, health card, social insurance card, but most importantly, her library card.

The people at the craft show were wonderful, searching through garbage cans and the like, though they seemed just a bit too knowing and experienced for my liking. When I contacted mom's friend on her cell phone, I told her that enough was enough, and that the Newfoundlanders have to stop bleeding Ontario for money. This was a harsh form of provincial transfer payments.

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