

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

St. Francis de Sales



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BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

THEY often refer to the fraternity of the priesthood, that there is some invisible bond that unites all the priests, and that as such, there exists an immediate rapport that expresses itself whenever we meet one another. It's not quite that way.

In fact, there are infrequent opportunities to gather and when we do gather twice a year, at the annual seminar and the mandatory retreat, interactions are pretty exclusive. The honest to goodness support from that body is rather limited at best. One of the great boons for me is having a built in support from a blood fraternity.

Having a brother as a priest has been a tremendous support over the last almost 20 years of priesthood, and 5 years of seminary formation. It has been a blessing now that he has moved into a non-parish-based form of priesthood. Not only does this broaden his expression of priesthood, it affords him the opportunity to come here on weekends. I have loved the break but more the sharing in ministry. It has also provided me with an opportunity to witness the life of the parish from a much different perspective.

Sitting in the background this past weekend, I had the chance to hear the proclamations and the music. It is much different listening as participant than by sitting back with my feet up in my office. I was struck by the quality of our lectors, and I was blown away by the music. The rhythms, the harmonies, the melodies absolutely captured the spirit of Advent that I hadn't quite heard as presider.

I think that is one of the blessings of our Parish, that those in ministry take it very seriously and do it very well, whether it is in the liturgies, or services, or social or catechetical realm. We really have had an excellent start to this new liturgical year ushering in our 150th anniversary. The loaf of bread for each family, the Vespers, the Advent Christmas Party, the Bazaar, the Seniors' Christmas Lunch, Lessons and Carols, and of course, *A Christmas Carol*, were all wonderful expressions of our Eucharist. The decorations are phenomenal, and the banners, though experiencing some technical difficulties, are outstanding.

All this realization from a brief time of stepping back and standing still.

This is why we have Advent, that sometimes the 'busy-ness' of our lives obscures the view of the blessings around us. Time is a gift to us in limited supply.

Advent is our time. Use it wisely, because it passes too quickly.

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