

# St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

*St. Francis de Sales*



## Meanderings... | Parish Bulletin – January 24 & 25, 2009

BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

**I LOVE** school uniforms, mostly. When I was in High School, we had no official uniform per se, though everyone wore pretty much the same thing, Levis blue jeans and Adidas running shoes. The uniforms certainly make a very public statement and in some ways provide a great witness to Catholic schools.

It is a bit distressing when those uniform clad students don't always live up to the power and symbolism of the legacy of faith they begrudgingly represent. How much more so in our Sunday worship.

They say that the most unchristian place on earth is the church parking lot after Mass. I had several calls about an incident last weekend where impatience and frustration got the better of someone. No matter who was or wasn't at fault, the incident was wholly unworthy of someone who had just received the Eucharist to become the living presence of Christ in this world.

The word 'Mass' refers to the old Latin dismissal, which means that we as a community, are sent into the world to be Christ. When we leave the sacred doors having become Christ, then proceed to live in an attitude incongruent with our high calling, or by a code contrary to our Gospel values, we render the Eucharist fruitless and pointless.

We deceive ourselves and live a lie. It isn't so much about cussing and cursing, or kicking cars, or throwing snow, but rather about the lack of transformation or impact that our faith has had. As St. Paul says, "do you not know that you are the body of Christ". Therefore what comes out of our mouths, what is perpetrated by our actions, signifies our relationship with Christ. All the more tragic when we haven't even left the parking lot. It seems almost like a desecration of this sacred space.

If we aren't striving to live life differently than the rest of society; if we aren't attempting to die to our own selfish inclinations; if we aren't willing to defer to the inadequacies around us, what is the point. No one is perfect, and we all have much work to do.

Thankfully, the season of Lent, which is directed precisely to give us occasion to work on such failings is coming. It is only by taking to heart the identity God gives us through the Church, and the example Christ gives us through the Paschal Mystery, that we have any chance of change.

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