

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

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Meanderings...

| Parish Bulletin – June 6 & 7, 2009

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Freedom is a Lifestyle

WHILE there wasn't much to chew on spiritually at the retreat, there was the odd tidbit here and there, mostly there. One notion was the idea of catholic role models for our young people. The speaker went on to describe a couple of saints known for their courage and virtue - no, my name wasn't included - an oversight I am sure.

As we talked around the table about the current crop of role models for young people, it became quite evident that the young people struggle through many issues and forces that have never been encountered by young people in the history of the world.

What seems even scarier, however, is the complicity of society through the media. I happened to be driving my niece to her confirmation group meeting and as we chatted the radio was in the background, my car, my station. I listen to CBC radio, mostly because it has no commercials, and they don't subscribe to a music play list service.

I am growing more despondent about the lackadaisical approach that borders on the promotion of certain aspects of modern culture. There are many to choose from, but the one that irked me that day happened to be marijuana. The commentators fluffed off some story about pot growers and how it is accepted in all aspects of our culture except for the court system, and if they would just lighten up and mellow out, well, it isn't such a big deal.

The insinuation is that everyone has tried it and it becomes a rite of passage through teenage years. This is exactly the wrong message that I wanted my niece to hear, and it seems to be that it is not based in reality.

In my circle of high school and university friends, not to mention priest friends, very few people have ever indulged, and fewer still think that it should be treated with such a cavalier attitude by the media or society. Too many mainstream personalities rationalize and justify the errors of their ways by appealing to the lowest common denominator.

There are a vast majority of people who live by a higher set of standards which unfortunately get them labeled as square, antiquated, out of touch or whatever the jargon, and this fear of being at odds with the hip generation silences.

My dear young people, I for one survived my teen years without pot, drugs, or alcohol, and I'm doing okay thanks. It is possible, and preferable, and very Christ-like to do so. Don't listen to the media, movies or music that say otherwise.

- SR