



## Meanderings... | Parish Bulletin – May 16 & 17, 2009

BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

### Assault or Insult to Mothers' Day

**WE** had a rather nice Mothers' Day family gathering, though I am reticent to use the word family, because a couple of people were missing. There are so few days designed anymore for families to actually gather as family.

In the old days, I remember having Sunday dinner, then piling on the couch or pulling up on the floor to watch "*The World of Disney*". It was a peaceful and serene conclusion to the weekend, and a healthy entrance into the new school week.

As it happened this Mothers' Day, one of my nieces and sister-in-law were hoping to **lose** out of a soccer tournament in Niagara Falls, while my other niece and my brother were trapped in Richmond Hill at a Dance Competition, while the boys were wreaking havoc at my mom's, eating her out of house and home.

Somehow it just didn't cut it as a family day. In fact, we came to the conclusion that the soccer organization and the dance organization that would even schedule such events on what is supposed to be a family-oriented day, are in fact, anti-family. Instead of allowing a family to gather and express itself as family, they were causing separation and division in the family unit.

Maybe being at a hotel in Niagara Falls with only one of five children was indeed a treat for my sister-in-law, the reality is that we were prevented from experiencing ourselves as the Roberts clan. Of course, when I expressed my disappointment, it was met with a "well that's just the way it is". I asked if the other mothers found this acceptable. The decisions seemed to be out of their hands. I opined that I think the parents should be the ones in control, and not the coach or instructor or studio or team.

There should be competition-free days, especially on those revolving around the few enshrined opportunities for a family to be family. It becomes a discussion about who is leading, the cart or the horse.

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day should be enshrined where there would be no organized tournaments, competitions or other extracurricular activities that cannot involve the whole family as a unit.

This is where parents must put their foot down and let it be known when those sacred days are. They must reclaim what is rightfully theirs and what pertains to the most important aspects of life, being family so it can be a truly Happy Mothers' Day.

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