

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

St. Francis de Sales



Meanderings... | Parish Bulletin – May 23 & 24, 2009

BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

Retreating...

ONE of the requirements for priests is that they attend a week-long retreat once a year. In our Archdiocese, that has been abbreviated to Monday 'til Friday.

Ever since I was ordained, these retreats have taken place at the Seminary. Now the Seminary retreat comprised three units of sleeping quarters: the Seminary proper going up to the fourth floor, an annex called Kehoe Hall, also with four floors, and then the overflow over at Scarboro Foreign Missions. These quarters all have a cot, a desk, and a sink. The washrooms with showers are at the end of each hall. Each room has a window that opens to the outside: one side being a view of the parking lot, the other view the grassy fields out front. In Kehoe, those at the far end may get a view of Lake Ontario.

All the meals, no matter what building you reside in, are held in the Seminary cafeteria. I'm sure that the cots are from the army surplus, World War One, I think. It was never conducive for reflection, or rest, or retreat. What they found was that we poor, pampered priests would retreat from the retreat to get a good night's sleep.

Well, I guess they finally decided to find a different venue. This year, our retreat is in the Nottawasaga Inn, near Alliston - comfy beds, our own washroom, gourmet meals, and an 18-hole golf course on the premises, not to mention the swimming pool, the gym, and the massage therapist.

It has been suggested that the golf course is out of bounds, but we will take it under advisement. With so many priests in the Archdiocese, spread out over two weeks, the question is whom will I know on this retreat, with whom can I sit for meals, and all importantly, who else is hiding his golf clubs in the trunk of his car.

For many reasons I haven't really enjoyed a retreat at the Seminary. It has been convenient because the library was there, but I am a bit excited about the new venue. So even if the retreat master isn't quite up to speed, or interest, at least there will be plenty of other diversions to help bring an atmosphere of restfulness, relaxation, comfort and retreat. And I hope that when I get back on Friday, the Landscaping Company will have completed the front garden around the labyrinth. So all in all, it gives me great joy to announce for everyone to 'sound the retreat', and away I go.

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