

# St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

*St. Francis de Sales*



## Meanderings... | Parish Bulletin – September 12 & 13, 2009

BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

**I GUESS** inevitably, during this first week of school, conversations begin with inquiries about how good it was to be back in the swing of the school routines. And just as inevitably, most responses are rather undemonstrative. Maybe my expectations are a little high. I would love to hear that it is great, that the agenda for each course sounds exciting and enticing.

Well, that is not what I have heard, by and large. So I was a pleased that one conversation was filled with the enthusiasm that I was hoping to hear. It began with an overwhelming description of the newly-opened school, how the facilities were excellent and fresh. The gym was huge and filled with the potential of great fun and sport. The staff in the office were so friendly and excited to be under way in the new facility. Even the attendance secretary seemed to be in a great frame of mind, though realistically, who is absent on the first day.

This contrasts so much with my first day in high school, when because of a scheduling error, my timetable had me in Grade 12 instead of Grade 9. It took two days to get that error corrected, after all, this was way back in BC - that is Before Computers!

So back to the conversation, the classrooms were all unmarked and freshly painted, equipped with the best of modern technology, Smart Boards and the like.

My high school was 125 years old, rickety, cracked and showing every indication that 124 classes had passed through those walls. So again, there seemed to be a great spirit of pioneering as the first day in the new school was indeed an historical event.

Since all students were Grade 9s, and anxious, they must have been all on their best behavior and decidedly reserved as they began meeting all these new people. There were serious interpersonal negotiations happening as the great exercise of finding one's way and one's place began in earnest.

So the verdict was that the first day of school was outstanding, and the year ahead is filled with inexhaustible potential and possibilities. Now that was the kind of response I always hope to hear. Somehow, 'it was boring' or 'same old' or any other understated answer just doesn't cut it.

So, I guess if you want an exciting and future-filled response, the kind of person you need to talk with is a new, first year teacher, because that was my brother's take on his first day of teaching at Cardinal Ambrozic High School in Brampton.

- RR