

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

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BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

WHEN the Men of St. Francis first proposed the Parish Family Album, I have to say that I was not thrilled. My previous experience with such undertakings has always been fraught with headaches and frustration.

I must confess that in this age of computers and digital photography, life is much simpler and I am really happy they 'forced' me to do it. When I think about it, the last time we had a family portrait was when our Parish, growing up was hosting a similar project.

Mom has it hanging at home, no not on the dart board. It was a time before grandchildren, and in-laws, back when hair was dark for those of us who still have it, and bodies were thin. Many of the families have been extending thanks for providing the opportunity and the impetus to gather and dress up to celebrate being family.

I have never really liked getting my picture taken. In fact, I can count the pictures of myself over the years that I accept as passable. There was my Grade 1 school photo where it goes without saying that I was just too cute for words. Then there was my Grade 6 picture where I had my leather vest with the fringe, it was the end of the hippy era after all. There was my Grade 11 year-book picture with my Beach Boys' *Endless Summer* T-shirt. Then there was my yearly pass to Blue Mountain winter skiing with my cool ski jacket. There was my basic training picture when the chaplains were all decked out in battle fatigues and carrying sub-machine guns. That picture is priceless and unfortunately, it was lost in transit when I returned to St. Francis from Victoria Harbour.

Finally, there was a photograph taken when I was a young, I mean younger priest. The great thing about this picture is that it is a long, long shot and somehow the perspective works magic.

There have been a few remarks about this opportunity with people suggesting that certain portraits would be perfect on the casket when that time comes. It is not such a gruesome thought, and it got me thinking what photo I would like on mine, which message I would like to be sent off with, the adorable Grade 1, or the sporty ski shot, or the rugged and dangerous military shot. Probably the most appropriate would be the Beach Boys T-shirt that speaks of *Endless Summer*. That kind of sums it up.

So, have you signed up to be part of our Parish's 150th?

-SR