

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

St. Francis de Sales



Meanderings...

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BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

FOR me, one of the most perfect opening hymns for any celebration is the one we sang at the 150th Anniversary Mass: “We are One Body”. Certainly recent support of parish events indicate that we haven’t quite taken that to heart, but that is for another rant.

That song was the theme song for World Youth Day in Denver, Colorado in 1993. That was the first World Youth Day that my brother attended and helped launch him into youth ministry in the diocese. It was also the beginning of a dream to have World Youth Day come to Canada, which he worked hard to fulfill in 2002.

It is a powerful hymn that serves to remind us of our innate need to be community, that especially through the Eucharist we are made one, in the most profound sense. It is the most memorable song that has endured beyond the years of the various World Youth Days since Pope John Paul II inaugurated them in the 1980s.

Every three years, a city around the world is asked to host this most catholic of events, and the youth from around the globe assemble to celebrate our catholicity. It can be a very life changing experience. The next one will be held in Madrid, Spain, in 2011. Now, the age of a youth in the eyes of the universal Church is a refreshing age bracket that spans from 18–39, but the lower limit can include those as young as 16.

Our youth coordinators are busy making plans to invite those youth of our parish who would like to participate to attend on a 9-day spiritual pilgrimage (which would include a day in Toledo to see some of the most famous religious art that Spain has to offer) . They had an initial meeting to gauge the interest within our parish.

There are a handful of our youth who are interested, which would mean some serious fund-raising. This *Meanderings* is dedicated as an open invitation to young people who will be 16 or older come August 2011. Maybe one day when my brother deigns to celebrate with us once again, I will ask him to speak of his experiences in Denver, or Manila, or Paris, or Rome.

I remember his stories of being on the bus travelling the Midwest States on the way to Denver and sleeping on school floors and not showering every day. That was kind of roughing it a bit too much for me.

So when they arrange air-conditioned venues and clean hotels, I may go.

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