

St. Francis de Sales Parish

All glory comes from daring to begin.

St. Francis de Sales



Meanderings... | Parish Bulletin – January 30 & 31, 2010 BY REV. ROY ROBERTS

WELL, that was quite the celebration to mark 150 years of faith. As always, we were spoiled with such magnificent music. The young dancers were exceptional and certainly increased the significance of our praise and worship. The cakes and the foodstuffs generated a lot of excitement and fellowship and were a great expression of what it means to be community. It was a meaningful and spirit-filled gathering that touched the essence of a true Eucharist.

I have always been aware of the power of the liturgy to speak the unspeakable and transcend the everyday. That is the point.

Liturgy, especially our Sunday gatherings, are a gift to not only inspire us and nourish us, liturgy's primary purpose is to change us, to transform us. It can be the most wonderful celebration in the history of the Church (which ours was close to), yet if we are not changed by it, then it serves no divine purpose. Thanksgiving has always been my parents' favorite family gathering. As with any such occasion, there are two dynamics that occur.

First, it is a manifestation of our bond as family, and secondly, it seals and strengthens those very same bonds we celebrate. Same with the Eucharist.

What happens in the foyer, those little social activities, directly influences what goes on inside. How we manifest community in these gatherings directly relates to how we manifest Eucharist. One does not exist without the other, so intimate is the relationship between the two, and how we live out this relationship is a bold statement, a direct communication of who we believe our God to be.

What does this mean? It means that if we engage in the liturgy, and we engage in the community which is the real, living presence of Christ in this world, in this town, in this building, then we animate the divine spark that is within.

It may be hard to understand, or believe, but sticking around, and eating an insignificant piece of cake, or trying some over-spiced food from around the world, is vital for the Eucharist to be expressed. In fact, choir members were a bit disheartened that all their efforts rendered so many non-participants in the music. The instruction was, continue the opening hymn to engage as many people in this procession song to God's kingdom. Unfortunately, so many people remained unmoved, unengaged.

And the streams of people who raced out of Mass before the procession made it to the end, and those who passed by the tables of goodies without so much as an acknowledgment signify that we have a very long way to go and much work to do if we are going to be transformed into the Eucharist we profess to celebrate.

God puts out the invitation each and every week. It is up to us to say yes. Maybe by the next 150th!

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