

FIRST DECADE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

by Harry Zirkelbach 02-08-2010

RECENTLY AS WOMAN CAME FORWARD WITH THIS INFORMATION.
SHE COULD RECALL EVERY DAY OF HER LIFE, IN GREAT DETAIL.
OF COURSE THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

SHE WAS INTERVIEWED BY ONE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES,
AND VIOLA, SHE COULD.
LITERALLY, WHEN ASKED OF A SPECIFIC DAY,
SHE SIMPLY SELECTED IT FROM MEMORY
RECOUNTED THE DAY, DAWN TO DUSK, COMPLETE, ACCURATE.
IMMEDIATELY SHE BECAME INVISIBLE,
BECAUSE SHE WAS SEQUESTERED, BECAME A STUDY OF THE MIND.

HOW WAS HER FEAT POSSIBLE?

EVEN BETTER, WOULD YOU WANT THAT PENALTY?

SO, WHEN ASKED TO WRITE ON ANYTHING OF THE PAST DECADE,
THE FIRST OF THE 21ST CENTURY,
THIS CLUTTERED MIND FLOODED WITH SCATTERED MOMENTS.

GRADUALLY, MOMENTS WERE ELIMINATED, UNTIL
THIS WAS CHOSEN.

AT THE ONSET OF THIS CENTURY, OUR FAMILY,
PARENTS AND NINE CHILDREN, HAD BEEN REDUCED AGAIN TO TWO, PARENTS.
THE NEST EMPTY HAD BEGUN.

OF THE 3,653 DAYS OF THE DECADE, I CHOOSE TO MENTION THE FIRST.
AND OF THAT, JUST THE FIRST FIVE HOURS, MIDNIGHT TO 5:00 AM, JANUARY 1, 2000

AT THE FIRST SECOND OF THAT DAY, THE CONGREGATION OF QUEEN OF PEACE,
AURORA, AND ITS CLERGY HAD ASSEMBLED THE YEAR EARLIER,
TO BEGAN A SERVICE TO CONSECRATE THEIR NEW CHURCH.
THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A CATERED DINNER,
THEN DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY, TO A LIVE ORCHESTRA.
A JOYOUS CELEBRATION, THE ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH DEDICATED
THE MOMENT THE NEW CENTURY WOULD BEGIN.

THE CHURCH WAS FILLED TO BEYOND CAPACITY,
STANDING ROOM FILLED TOO.
WITH MIDNIGHT, THE CELEBRANTS ENTER.
ALL WENT SMOOTHLY THE THIRTY MINUTES INTO THE DEDICATION.
THEN, THE ACTUAL BLESSING OF THE BUILDING,

BISHOP AND THE PASTOR CARRYING CENSURES TO EVERY NOOK
INSIDE OF THE BUILDING, THE CHARCOALS BURNING INCENSE
INTO GREAT CLOUDS OF SMOKE.

JUST BEFORE COMPLETION OF THIS BLESSING,
THE PALL OF SMOKE CREATED TRIGGERED THE FIRE ALARM.
THE NOISY KLAXON GRABBED EVERYONE'S ATTENTION.
THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES SENSING THE CAUSE,
ALERTED ALL TO REMAIN SEATED WHILE THE ALARM WAS SILENCED.

AND THAT THE CONGREGATION DID.
THEN, QUIET AGAIN, THE CEREMONY CONTINUED.

CELEBRITIES IN THE CONGREGATION INCLUDED AURORA'S MAYOR.
IMAGINE EVERYONE JUST SITTING OR STANDING THERE,
WHILE AN AUTHORIZED ALARM SHOUTED
"FLEE, THE BUILDING MAY BE ON FIRE"

INSTEAD, THE PARISHIONERS SMILED AT THEIR GOOD FORTUNE.

AND THAT'S THE WAY TWO THOUSAND
AT AURORA'S QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH
WELCOMED THEIR FIRST MOMENTS
OF THE FIRST DECADE OF THIS CENTURY.

IT WAS MORE MEMORABLE THAN THE ACTUAL DEDICATION,
THE BEAUTY OF A NEW CHURCH BUILDING, FINELY CATERED DINNER, AND
DANCING.