

## A Good Catholic Upbringing

I attended Catholic schools from the 1st through 12th grades, and I look back now and feel pretty lucky to have had that opportunity. Now I'm not saying that by attending public school one doesn't get as good an education. My daughter, Savannah, has had only wonderful experiences in the 7 years she has spent in the public school system here, and I'm quite impressed with the things she has already been taught. Heck, I can't even help her with most of her homework. She is also quite thrilled when we talk about the new middle school that she will be attending as an 8th grader. But there is a strange power missing by not having your teacher, whether a woman dressed in a habit, or a brother dressed in a robe, in charge of your classroom.



I vividly remember my last day of first grade, in anticipated summer of fun, and having that excitement drained right out of me when the young nun, who was my homeroom teacher handed me a piece of paper, and told me, "I will see you next year." I'm sure I made a horrified face and walked away with my head down the whole five block stroll home. I decided to face the music and proceeded to hand the piece of paper to my

dumbfounded mother, as I cried, "I have to repeat 1st grade!" My mother assured me I had passed and would live to attend 2nd grade.

Being an altar boy too had its moments. Like trying not spill the wine or water as we poured it into the golden chalice, in front of what seemed like thousands of people. Don't even get me started on the "holy smoke" either; it is never a good thing if you start coughing as you carry that dangling ball containing the fire.

I'm sure I will have to answer to someone one day about the time I was "forced" to be an accomplice to another altar boy who took a bottle of wine, (I'm not talking about grape juice either, it was real stuff, from the church's stash. Or maybe one of the times we tried to see how many communion wafers you could stuff in your mouth when the Father had his head turned. I really wasn't a bad kid though, just easily influenced, a trait I still possess on occasion today.

Seriously though, I had a great time and learned many of the things about life that still influence me to this day. When Frederica Academy hosts the 7th Annual Derby Day, on Saturday, May 3rd, the ultimate results will effect kids for many year, perhaps even a lifetime, as scholarship monies will be raised, and bright minds will be given a chance to shine. To find out more about this year's Derby Day, go to page 14.

*Bob Swinehart*

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### Correction on last issue's article on autism...

Although the Triumph Foundation is in the process of creating an outpatient therapeutic clinic for those affected by autism, they have not opened it at this time. They are currently working with Brooks Rehab. and Southeast Georgia Health system to create a Center of Excellence.



**On The Cover:**  
Ellen Fleming, Frederica Academy Head of School, with students from left, Kate Worthley, Alexandra Sheffield and Chris Osgood

**Cover Photo:**  
Courtesy of Frederica Academy

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