

By Pat Haggerty

I went to a Catholic high school. It was an all-girls' high school. Similarly, there was an all-boys' Catholic High School in our town, too. The boys' high school would hold monthly dances in their gym, which were chaperoned by the teachers, many of whom were Christian brothers. Whenever there were slow dances and couples might be dancing a bit too close (not me, of course!), the brothers would say "leave room for the Holy Ghost." Couples usually separated and maybe "got together" a few dances later.

I haven't thought about that saying for a long time. Recently, though, a friend helped me out with a dilemma and it brought that reference to mind.

I am about to head into a challenging situation, which is causing me great stress and consternation. I called a dear friend who is extremely wise and very spiritually rooted. I knew she would be able to give me some words of wisdom and help ground me for what lay ahead. She told me that I should let God go before me in this tough situation. She said, "Leave room for God to lead the way." It is similar to the Christian brothers' quote but it is intended for a much more serious context.

However, both instances remind me that we must make room for God in our lives. We must trust enough to let God lead the way. I know that I don't always do that. I have often sung "Be Not Afraid." We all have. Think about---really think about---those opening lines: "Be not afraid; I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest."

Wow! That is saying a lot. But, how often have we reflected on it? The words come cascading out of our mouths with its melodious tune. I think I will use those words as my mantra, as I face my upcoming difficult week. I will let you know how things go.