



Family Dining At Its Best!

“So Why the Name Francis Xavier?”

On February 16, 1999, Francis X. Gaudette (a.k.a. Frank) opened wide the doors of Francis Xavier's. He chose the name Francis Xavier because it was the name his parents had chosen for him years before. His mother, Margaret Ann, had selected the name because of her devotion to the Jesuit missionary St. Francis Xavier. Even before his birth, Frank's mother had chosen the name because of the virtues of Francis Xavier ~ that of being a missionary and one who was in the service of others. Thus, Frank was destined to choose a profession that was in the service of others as well as encompassing a love for food.

Frank grew up in Portland in a family with nine siblings. The kitchen table was the main “gathering place” for the family. Often, it was a place where an unexpected guest came and was welcomed by an extra place being set. Throughout his life, gathering together with family and friends to share a meal has remained one of Frank's greatest pleasures. He has always found that sitting together for a meal allows one the chance to nourish not only the body with the food that is shared, but also to nourish the mind with the conversation between family and friends.

Thus, as Frank built the restaurant, he wanted it to be a place where people felt welcomed to come together to share good food and good conversation. He wanted it to be a place where service was key, since St. Francis Xavier had spent much of his life in the service of others. The restaurant brought together over