

## Colleen's Contemplations – June 2009

Endings and beginnings... The school year is coming to an end, I know because the children are wound a bit tight. Summer is beginning, I know because I'm feeling the stress of projects outside my house. Tomorrow I'm heading to Chicago to relax for a couple days with my friend Cindy. We have nothing serious planned, we'll swim and Jacuzzi and nap, and talk about everything. We'll also take time to think about other kinds of beginnings and endings. I have a new niece who gets baptized on Saturday. It's a beginning of a lifetime of learning where she fits in this world. My daughter starts Intermediate school this fall; it's a beginning of a whole new world of challenges, and an ending of those innocent simpler years. We'll also need time to be sad this week, a friend of ours is nearing the end of her all too short life. All endings carry a bit of sadness with them, change is hard. If you read the contemplations I posted online last month you know I have sensitivity towards funeral situations, so I'm feeling a bit lost at the moment. Beginnings and endings... they are both scary, aren't they? But every beginning and ending has some anticipation too. Every summer means fun with the kids. And while the years may not be simple and innocent much longer, I'm sure they will be interesting and dramatic. And when my friend passes onto the heavenly realm, her pain will go away, and she'll be surrounded by joy. I know these things, but I still hate the transition times. Beginnings and endings are inevitable, so try to focus on the good times to get you through the rough; I'll be praying for you.