Funeral -- Ethel Theobald

Psalm 16: 11: Lord, You have made known to me the Path of Life; You will fill me with Joy in Your Presence, with eternal pleasures at Your Right Hand.

HCE CHA

IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SICK MARY ANN WENT TO SEE ROY THEOBALD & TAKE CARE OF HIM IN HIS BED OR WHEEL CHAIR. SHE ALWAYS SAID THAT ETHEL WAS SUCH A WONDERFUL WIFE & CARETAKER. MARY ANN ME TO VISIT RAY & ETHEL ON DAY, & THIS WAS BEFORE I BECAME ASSOCIATE PASTOR AT HOLY CROSS. WE TALKED ABOUT OUR PAST LIVES IN CHICAGO. ON JULY 7 OF THIS YEAR MARY ANN & I VISITED ETHEL & SHE RECEIVED THE BLESSED SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION. WE PRAYED THE 23 PSALM: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL NOT WANT.....YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL....SURELY GOODNESS & MERCY WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, & I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER. WHENEVER I VISITED ETHEL, SHE ALWAYS SMILED & SHE WOULD SAY, YOU & MARY ANN ARE ALWAYS IN MY PRAYERS. ETHEL HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE LORD WAS ALWAYS WITH HER, THAT HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE HER OR FORSAKE HER. SHE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN SHE WOULD SEE JESUS FACE-TO-FACE & THE WORDS OF KING DAVID WOULD COME TRUE FOR HER: (we prayed the King James Version: LORD, IN YOUR PRESENCE THE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; AT YOUR RIGHT HAND, THERE ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE. WHEN I VISITED HER AFTER HER HEART ATTACK, WE TALKED AGAIN ABOUT THE ETERNAL PLEASURES THAT ARE THERE AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND..... CAN ANY OF US HUMAN MORTALS EVEN BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THE J O Y THAT IS ALWAYS GOING ON IN GOD'S PRESENCE? JESUS SAID AGAIN & AGAIN TO HIS DISCIPLES: DO NOT BE AFRAID.... IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY ROOMS / I AM GOING TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU.... & I WILL COME AGAIN & TAKE YOU TO MYSELF THAT WHERE I AM, THERE YOU MAY BE ALSO!

THERE CAME A TIME WHEN JOHN, THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED, FELL AT JESUS FEET AS THOUGH HE WERE DEAD & HE HEARS JESUS SAY, DO NOT BE AFRAID! I AM THE FIRST & THE LAST. I AM THE LIVING ONE; I WAS DEAD, & BEHOLD I AM ALIVE FOREVER & EVER! AND I HOLD THE KEYS OF DEATH & HADES / GOD IS OUR REFUGE & STRENGTH, ALWAYS A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE -- EVEN THE TROUBLE OF HAVING A SUDDEN HEART ATTACK. THE WORDS OF OUR LORD KEEP RINGING OUT ACROSS THIS DARK & DYING WORLD: BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU SHALL LIVE ALSO. THIS IS NOT ONLY THE ASSURANCE THAT ALL OF ETHEL'S SINS & ALL OF OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN, BUT THAT HE WHO FORGAVE THEM BY HIS BITTER & DEATH NOW LIVES ETERNALLY & WE SHALL LIVE WITH HIM. THE WORDS OF KING DAVID COME TRUE AGAIN, LORD, IN YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; AT YOUR RIGHT HAND, THERE ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE. I THINK BACK TO JESUS' LIFE & MINISTRY & I CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT J O Y MUST HAVE FILLED THE HEARTS OF JESUS' DISCIPLES WHEN HE APPEARED TO THEM AS THEY WERE HIDING IN THAT UPPER ROOM AFTER HIS RESURRECTION & JESUS SAID. SHALOM -- PEACE BE WITH YOU. CAN YOU NOW IMAGE ETHEL SEE JESUS FACE-TO-FACE WITH ALL THE COUNTLESS ANGELS & ARCHANGELS & THE REST OF THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN? CAN YOU IMAGINE ETHEL SEEING ROY & ROY RUNNING UP TO HER & THROWING HIS ARMS AROUND HER & GIVING HER A BIG HUG? CAN YOU IMAGINE THE J O Y THEY ARE SHARING? EVERY TIME WE COME TO THE COMMUNION TABLE, WE HAVE A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME! / THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN & ON EARTH BUT ONE COMMUNION MAKE. AGAIN, WHAT A JOY IT IS TO BE IN THE REDEEMING PRESENCE OF OUR GOD!