

Pastor's Column

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us In Death

On November 2, we celebrated “The Feast of All Souls.” Indeed, all through the month of November, we take time in a special way to remember all those who have gone before us in death.

The experience of the death of a loved one is always a “reality check” for us. As we grieve for the one who has gone, we also grieve for ourselves. We are mindful that we are a pilgrim people who are on a journey of faith. We have come from somewhere and we are going somewhere. Earth is not our home. We are aliens in a foreign land.

“Each time that we experience the death of a loved one, just a little bit more of eternity breaks into our existence.” (Suzuki) These words challenge us to make sure that we do not allow ourselves to let the deaths of our loved ones be in vain. Hopefully, each time we grieve a loved one, we become more open to life, more loving, more caring, and more open to the eternal life that awaits us.

As we remember and look to the past, we look forward to what lies ahead for us. May our loving memories during this month spur us on to a deeper respect and love for this gift of life given to us.

I share with you this prayer:

We Remember Them

*In the rising of the sun and in its going down...
In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter...
In opening of buds and in the warmth of summer...
In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn...
In the beginning of the year and when it ends...
When we are weary and in need of strength...
When we are lost and sick at heart...
When we have joys we yearn to share...
So long as we live, they too shall live
for they are part of us and part of you, O God, as
We remember them!*

—Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

