

The Good Fight



I'm sitting here watching her. Her breathing is labored. The few words she tries to speak are slurred and don't always make sense. I keep wondering which breath will be her last. I'm watching my mother die. Sounds pretty morbid, huh? We're in the nursing home and hospice has been called in. I'm actually happy for her. She is just days away from what I wholeheartedly believe will be her heavenly reward. I believe that she will look back on these last few months of misery and say, "Pshaw! That was nothing! Just wait until you get *here*! Every moment of pain, every minute of suffering was more than worth it!"

I have good reason to believe this. My mother has been a devout Catholic for as long as I can remember. She is the one who taught me my prayers when I was a little boy. She buried her parents, her husband, two of her four children, and still she kept her faith. In fact, I think her faith grew stronger. She is the one who prayed and waited patiently for me to come back when I drifted away from the Church. In the words of her priest, "She is spiritually solid."

I'm glad that last week she got to see her grandchildren and her great grandchildren. My grandson won't remember looking into his great grandmother's eyes when he was one week old, but he will see the picture of the two of them and hear stories about her.

And just as she prayed for me when I strayed, she will be praying for him and all of her grandchildren and great grandchildren as they grow older. She will be leading the cheers in their own personal heavenly cheering section.

In these next few months I will get to be a part of three huge events. I have two grandchildren who will be baptized as children of God, and I have a mother who will be welcomed into heaven. These are occasions for celebration. Two people will be starting out their lives as children of God and one person is finishing this part of her life as a child of God. As St. Paul told Timothy, she has fought the good fight, she has finished the race, she has kept the faith. May her faith be an example to those who know her.



In His Service,
Jim Makey, Principal