

A Homily for Dorothy Murray

*Preached 10/24/2019 at Church of the Ascension, Chicago, IL.
by Fr. J. Heschlē, Warden to the Order of St. Anne, Chicago Convent.
Text: St. John .14:1-6 “Vs.4: “Where I AM, there you may be also.”
Grant O Lord that thy Word only may be spoken and thy Word only received.
¶ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

- I. The Scriptures selected today for this Requiem Mass are about Community. Community holds truths in common and community has a special relationship. Thus the Gospel today mentions God's Kingdom being a House, Mansion or dwelling place. A place that has many rooms. “In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” Convents have many rooms too! If you don't believe me just ask Mother Judith for a tour next door, it will cure your skepticism!
- II. The Reading from the Book of Revelation tells us of a city. But a city is really just a larger house, maybe a little larger than our Convent next door. In both the Epistle and Gospel this morning the point is pretty clear: God's Home is among His created beings, specifically us- men and women. So it is pretty interesting that we find in today's Requiem Mass the answer to St. Thomas' question- the question about not knowing where to go- “How can we know the way?” The answer is the affirmation of Our Lord- We are already there: “I AM the way, the truth and the Life.”

III. Community is built for us around being with Jesus- or rather Him making His home around us. “No man comes to the Father except through me.” Community is built into a Mansion around “The way, the truth and the Life”- Jesus Christ. We each entered such at Holy Baptism and today’s Mass will use Baptismal Holy Water as we mark the transition (not an end, a transition) to the life of one such community member.

IV. Dorothy Murray by Holy Baptism and now the Prayers of the Faithful Community enters into the fullness of Joy. The proper preface of the Requiem says it perfectly, listen for it today: “For to thy faithful people O Lord, life is changed not ended”- Changed NOT Ended! Dorothy will still be singing “Que Sera, Sera...” She will still say ‘Lord have mercy upon poor old Dorothy’. She will still decorate some fabulous Birthday Cakes and arrange some beautiful flowers for Christmas & Easter. And do it at God’s Altar in the Communion of Saints. She will even probably still play Santa at Christmas in the Kingdom. And she will walk around Heaven a lot, just like she walked this neighborhood over and over. She is probably now watching Basketball or an episode of Cosby with Mother Mary

Margaret. She will do it now, not at St. Anne's Convent next door, but in God's Convent of Faith and Truth in the Communion of Saints in Everlasting Life. Rest dear Christian soul. Lord have mercy upon poor old Dorothy.

"Vs. 4: Where I AM, there you may be also."

✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.