

Carol and Bill were married over 50 years, they raised two terrific kids through some difficult days, and their family became widely respected and loved throughout the Cameron area. We will miss having Carol here because she showed us how you can handle the ups and downs of life with self-assurance, good humor, love and faith.

Although she was devoted to her family, she helped out her community in every way imaginable. She worked at Camp Quality. She was at Vacation Bible School. She visited nursing homes. She participated at mass on Sundays, holydays, and many weekdays as well. She got people to join her in worship and service. She provided home cooked meals, and she loved her grandkids. Carol had excellent friends - people of outstanding quality, and some were with her all her life. She enjoyed their company, and she made your life more pleasant by her laughter, good sense, and strong opinions. Carol had problems with her health, but she didn't dwell on them. At times she couldn't hear at all; at other times she made you think she couldn't hear at all. She survived longer with a transplanted kidney than anyone is supposed to. And maybe that experience gave her a perspective on life that the rest of us don't have. You make the most of every day. You take your bad days because they will come. But you have plenty of good days, and no one should forget that. I remember once about a year ago after I gave Carol the sacrament of the anointing of the sick and prayed for her improved health, she took a turn for the worse. When she got back to church she smiled and then told me and everyone within earshot, "Don't let Father Paul anoint you." I like to think I'm a miracle worker, but Carol kept me in my place.

Jesus says that the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. We often use this passage at the funerals of younger people, but it's especially appropriate for Carol because she lived her whole life this way, not knowing when her final day would come. Jesus says, "You must be prepared," and it seemed like Carol was, every day. Jesus says the servants who are vigilant will be blessed; the master will become their servant. He will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. Will Carol be surprised to find Jesus doing that for her? Probably not. Probably she'll enjoy it. As Saint Paul says of Christians in general, Carol's citizenship is in heaven. We live here, but our passport comes from there. Here we are awaiting our Savior, Jesus Christ for the journey home. Paul says Christ will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body. Because of her transplant, Carol knew Christ can remake us; he already remade her once; she believed he would do it again.

In a way it may seem pointless to pray for Carol today; I mean, she did so many things well in the Christian life. But the First Book of Maccabees says it is a good and pious thing to do. Carol prayed for others; it's our turn to pray for her. Going forth from this place, let's at least learn this lesson – live every day well. Serve your neighbor. Spend time with your friends. Never give up on your kids. You don't know when the Son of Man will come for you. But even if he's a long time in coming, you'll experience joy and peace every day of your life.