

On behalf of all of us at St. Munchin Church, I'd like to extend my condolences to Bill and all your family. I know this has to be a tremendous loss, especially for Bev's children, because you were such a tremendous gain to her. You were first in her life. She came alive with you. She loved you and lived for you. She wanted the best for you, and she gave all the time she could, every minute of it, every breath.

Well, I guess the kids weren't absolutely everything. There were also the grandkids. And in the midst of all of that Beverly somehow fit in everybody else. She never knew a stranger. She cared a lot about people. She had a big heart filled with love for every adult and child. That kind of love and commitment never comes without suffering.

Bev came from a large Catholic family in a small house in a small town. She worked in a beauty shop for a while. She liked visiting with people and liked making them feel better about themselves. In a way, all of us were Bev's children.

St. Paul says in his letter to the Romans that all of us are God's children. In Christ God has adopted us as children, and we share the same inheritance that Jesus received, eternal life. All we have to do is believe and be willing to suffer for it. If we suffer for what we believe in, God will glorify us.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus reminds us we do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man will come, so he cautions us to be ready to meet him every day, every minute, every breath. If we believe in Christ, if we make him the center of our lives, we will suffer for him, and God will glorify us.

It is hard to lose Beverly, a woman who crammed a lot of life into a short span, who grabbed your heart and would not let go. It is especially hard to lose her at this holy season and at the start of a new year with all its promise and hope. Each Christmas we recall God's commitment to us, sending us Jesus to become like us, and allowing him to suffer so that we might be saved. In the midst of our sorrow at the loss of this wonderful woman, let us recommit ourselves to God, who loves each one of us as his very own children.