

When John Sullivan served as our bishop, there was one word that we always associated with him: vision. After a few years here he invited everyone in the diocese together to hear his vision of church, and we spent many years afterwards implementing that vision.

Here at Little Sisters of the Poor, John Sullivan entertained a different vision, a vision for eternal life. It was the big vision out of which he worked the small ones. Here he prepared his spirit for a vision of the eternal church.

Dying is serious business, but it is eased by the words of Jesus we just heard, words addressed to the Father: "I desire that those also whom you have given me may be with me where I am to see my glory which you have given me." Jesus desires us. He wants us to share glory with him, especially if we have shared suffering.

In the vision that concludes the book of Revelation at the end of the bible, John hears a voice that promises, "I am coming soon. My reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work."

In the vision of the Book of Daniel, we hear that those who lead others to righteousness will shine like the brightness of the sky.

Today we give thanks to God that the bright star who was John Sullivan appeared within our field of vision. Our steps are more firm, our hands more steady, our eyes more clear, because John Sullivan lighted the way before us. May God grant him the eternal reward for which he yearned, and help us to be faithful to the vision of church.