

Kaitlin Farrell

To think about Kaitlin is like reading a mystery novel. We have many clues that tell us something about humanity, something about God, but it's hard to put the puzzle together. It's hard to solve the mystery of Kaitlin's brief life.

Some of the clues make us sad. A beautiful little girl with a disease no one could name, much less cure. A child who required almost relentless attention. A struggle by the parents who gave her life to sustain it.

Then there's the frustration of trying to fit God into that puzzle. We know God is supposed to be loving. It's hard to reconcile that God with Kaitlin's life. We might even get angry at him for it.

But there are other clues to the mystery of Kaitlin's life. They are the clues that bring us here today. They are clues which make us hopeful. A child who revealed the true meaning of humanity, the ability to give and receive love. A child who showed that to be human, you don't need to be healthy. A child who taught us the beauty of life--any human life. Around Kaitlin we saw family and friends who cared, we saw a community of faith.

It's here, among these clues, that we best find God--God who creates and sustains life; God who loves us all, no matter our weaknesses; God who surrounds us with people who care.

Two years ago Kaitlin came to this church to be baptized. On that day she began her life in Christ. Today her life in Christ is made full. She has lived a complete Christian life.

In the book of Revelation, John says of his vision of the last day, that God is always with his people. He shall wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, crying out or pain, for the former world has passed away. God makes all things new.

Today God makes Kaitlin new. And God gives us the hope that when our pilgrimage is ended, we will see her again, and she will see us. Together we will sing the praises of God, a God shrouded in mystery who yearns to break through the clouds of our despair so we might see the sunshine of hope--hope in the one who makes all things new.

St. Regis 21.vii.88