

BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

MAY 29, 2016

AS WE HEARD IN OUR SECOND READING:

**"THIS IS MY BODY THAT IS FOR YOU. DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"
AND "THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD. DO THIS, AS
OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"**

TWICE WE HEARD IT, DIDN'T WE? REMEMBER ME!!

**THIST YOUNG MAN, OUR GOD - ASKING TO BE REMEMBERED.....
WHAT VULNERABILITY.....**

**LET ME BEGIN WITH A STORY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF
REMEMBERING IN OUR LIVES....**

THE MEMORY QUILT - A GRANDMOTHER STORY

THERE WAS ONCE A FAMILY - PARENTS AND SEVEN SISTERS AND A

BELOVED GRANDMOTHER WHO LIVED IN A NEARBY VILLAGE

THERE WAS LITTLE MONEY SO THE GIRLS GREW UP LEARNING HOW TO

MAKE THINGS OUT OF NOTHING AND NEVER TO WASTE ANYTHING....

**THE YEARS PASSED AND THEIR GRANDMOTHER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY CAME
AROUND.....**

THE GIRLS WANTED TO GIVE HER A SPECIAL GIFT....

EVENTUALLY, THEY HAD A GREAT IDEA....

**THEY NOTICED GRANDMA'S BED QUILT WAS GETTING VERY WORN AND
FADED...**

**IF THEY ALL WORKED TOGETHER, THEY THOUGHT, THEY COULD MAKE
HER A NEW ONE**

SO, THEY PUT ALL THEIR SAVINGS TOGETHER TO BUY NEW MATERIAL

FOR A NEW QUILT AND DECIDED TO MAKE IT AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE IN

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN TO THE OLD ONE

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF WORK, THE QUILT AS HALF-FINISHED....

IT WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE OLD QUILT, BUT THE MATERIAL HAD COST THEM ALL THEIR SAVINGS.....

HOWEVER, THE QUILT ALSO NEEDED A LINING ON ITS UNDERSIDE, TO MAKE IT SOFT AND WARM.....

BUT THERE WAS NO MONEY LEFT TO BUY ANY SUITABLE MATERIAL FOR THE LINING....

THE SISTERS WERE VERY DISAPPOINTED....

THEN ONE OF THEM HAD AN IDEA...

"THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY THAT WE CAN BUY ANY NICE SILK TO MAKE THE UNDERSIDE BEAUTIFUL. I SUGGEST THAT EACH ONE OF US SEARCH THROUGH OUR DRAWERS TO FIND REMNANTS OF MATERIAL AND THEN WE COULD AT LEAST SEW THESE PIECES OF LEFTOVERS TOGETHER AND FINISH OFF THE QUILT. AFTERALL, NO ONE WILL SEE THE UNDERSIDE OF THE QUILT AND GRANDMA WILL UNDERSTAND"

AND SO THEY SEARCHED IN THEIR DRWERS AND FOUND THE REMNANTS OF OLD CLOTHES THEY HAD WORN AS CHILDREN - EVEN THEIR DOLLS' CLOTHES FROM CHILDHOOD.

THEY CAREFULLY CUT UP THESE REMNANTS AND SEWED THEM

LOVINGLY INTO A PATCHWORK LINING FOR THE NEW QUILT.

GRANDMA'S BIRTHDAY DAWNED AND SHE WAS DELIGHTED WITH HER NEW QUILT.

THEY INSISTED ON PUTTING IT ON THE BED RIGHT AWAY AND THEY WERE SURE THAT SHE WOULD SLEEP WELL UNDER IT AND ENJOY IT....

IMAGINE THEIR SHOCK, HOWEVER, WHEN THEY VISITED GRANDMA A FEW DAYS LATER AND DISCOVERED THAT SHE HAD TURNED THE QUILT UPSIDE DOWN - THE OTHER WAY UP....

THEY PROTESTED, "GRANDMA, YOU'VE GOT THE QUILT THE WRONG WAY ROUND. THE UNDERSIDE IS JUST A MAKESHIFT MIXTURE OF REMNANTS WE SEWED TOGETHER TO MAKE THE LINING, BECAUSE WE HAD RUN OUT OF THE GOOD CLOTH."

"BUT MY DEAR GIRLS," SAID GRANDMA, "WHEN I TURNED YOUR BEAUTIFUL QUILT OVER AND SAW ALL THOSE BITS AND PIECES OF CLOTH, THEY BROUGHT BACK SO MANY HAPPY MEMORIES.

THE BROWN CLOTH WAS PART OF THE SKIRT YOU WORE, MARY, WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED SCHOOL.

AND THIS INDIGO MATERIAL WAS YOUR APRON, JANE, WHEN YOU WERE FIRST LEARNING TO COOK IN MY KITCHEN WHEN YOU WERE SEVEN YEARS OLD.

AND, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, THIS BRIGHT YELLOW PIECE WAS FROM A DRESS OF YOUR FAVORITE DOLL, LINDA.

AND THIS BLUE-CHECKED PATCH WAS SURELY YOUR FIRST SCHOOL BLOUSE, ROSIE?

LOOK AT THIS STRIPY PIECE. ISN'T THIS FROM YOUR OLD PAJAMAS, SUSY?

AND I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS PINK TAFFETA THAT CAME FROM YOUR PARTY DRESS WHEN YOU HAD YOUR EIGHTH BIRTHDAY, KATE.

AND SEE, HERE IS SOME GREEN SILK THAT YOUR GRANDDAD BROUGHT HOME FROM THE MARKET ONE DAY, WHICH WE MADE INTO A DANCING TUNIC FOR YOU, BECKY.

"AND LOOK AT THIS," SHE SAID, POINTING TO A FLUFFY WHITE PIECE WITH TEARS OF JOY IN HER EYES. "THIS WAS PART OF THE BLANKET YOU ALL USED WHEN YOU WERE JUST BABIES."

THE GIRLS FELL SILENT....AND GRANDMA'S MEMORIES KEPT ON POURING OUT AS SHE REMEMBERED THE STORY BEHIND EVERY PIECE OF THE QUILT LINING.....

LET'S GO BACK ONCE MORE TO OUR READINGS.....

"DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"

ISN'T THAT STRIKING - THIS YOUNG MAN - PRESUMABLY IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES - WANTING TO BE REMEMBERED

WANTING TO BE REMEMBERED - AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE GOES TO BE REMEMBERED....

MEMORIES AND WANTING TO BE REMEMBERED ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN RELATIONSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT TO US...

CLEARLY RELATIONSHIPS - LOVING RELATIONSHIPS WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO THIS YOUNG MAN...

AND LIKE OUR STORY IN WHICH GRANDMOTHER VALUES AND HIGHLIGHTS THE SIMPLE REMNANTS OF THE GRAND DAUGHTERS' LIVES SO JESUS VALUES AND HIGHLIGHTS THE FIVE BARLEY LOAVES AND TWO FISH - A TYPICAL PEASANTS LUNCH....

BUT TO HIM THEY BECAME MUCH MORE....

***JESUS GIVES THANKS AND FOCUSES HIS FULL ATTENTION ON THESE
SIMPLE THINGS AND THEY BECAME ENOUGH - AND MORE THAN ENOUGH
AND AT THE LAST SUPPER HE TAKES ORDINARY, VERY ORDINARY BREAD
AND WINE AND MAKES THEM SPECIAL - HIS PRESENCE***

***THE CHURCH HAS BEEN DOING THIS NOW FOR NEARLY 2 THOUSAND
YEARS***

***THE NAME OF THIS SACRED MEAL IS THE EUCHARIST - A GREEK WORD
MEANING THANKFULNESS....***

***LET US GIVE THANKS THAT WE CAN REMEMBER HIM EACH TIME AND
MORE THAN THAT - EXPERIENCE HIS PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES....***

LET US GIVE THANKS....

***LET US PRAY IN THIS EUCHARIST THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM
AND OUR COMMUNITY WILL GROW - BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE WE
INITIALLY EXPERIENCE HIM - IN THIS COMMUNITY***

***LET US PRAY FOR THE GRACE TO VALUE THE ORDINARY THINGS OF OUR
LIVES....E.G. BREAD AND WINE.....***

***BUT ESPECIALLY OUR RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS COMMUNITY AND
BEYOND.....***

***BECAUSE THAT IS TRULY WHERE WE EXPERIENCE THE PRESENCE OF
JESUS THE CHRIST....***