

March 15, 2020

REMEMBERING NAOMI'S SMILE

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this column. Last Saturday, God called back Naomi home. We all had hoped for a miracle. We had prayed that God will give Naomi more years on earth. God had a different plan. None of us can imagine the pain of parents losing a six-year old girl after a courageous, one-year battle with brain tumor (unless we have faced a similar situation in our own lives). The consolation for many of Naomi's family members and friends is **THEIR FAITH IN GOD AND THEIR HOPE THAT NAOMI IS SMILING UPON THEM FROM HEAVEN!**

While God did not grant Naomi a miraculous healing, HE allowed Naomi and her classmates at St Peter's School to inspire many people. Can you imagine an entire school of 275 students (pre-K through 8th grade) praying the Rosary together week after week for the healing of their friend Naomi? This is how I met Naomi and her mother last September. I was the main celebrant at the school weekly Mass (St Peter's School is a Regional Catholic School involving only two parishes: St Peter and our own OLHOC) and learned that at the end of the Mass the children and teachers will recite the Rosary for Naomi. The next Mass I celebrated in October, I sat next to Naomi and her mother while praying the Rosary...With much courage, Naomi continued to attend school through November (though her health was deteriorating rapidly). In the absence of Naomi, the entire School Mass was offered for her healing and the Rosary continued to be prayed after Mass.

You may recall that I wrote to you earlier about the **MIRACULOUS SMILE** of Naomi when she received her **FIRST EUCHARIST**. She was then resting at home two days after **CHRISTMAS**. That smile gave her family much hope. Her family and her mother in particular, kept displaying a very strong **FAITH IN GOD**. They have asked me to thank you for all the prayers that also took place at Our Lady Help of Christians (including several Masses for Naomi's intentions). I invite you now to pray for Naomi's two little sisters and their entire family.

Naomi's death at the young age of six reminds all of us of the fragility of life. We are all totally dependent on God. We do not know the time God will call us back to HIM. Jesus keeps warning us: **BE READY!** As we have done from the very beginning of Lent, we encourage everyone to **RECONCILE WITH GOD NOW! GOD IS CALLING YOU TO RECONCILIATION...**Allow me to repeat my main message of last week: **GOD IS CALLING YOU TO COME TO CONFESSION**, at least once this Lent: **COME to our Penance Service THIS MONDAY MARCH 16!**

May we all meditate on St Paul's words of **HOPE**: "*We have PEACE with God through Our Lord Jesus Christ ...and we boast in HOPE of the Glory of God. And HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.*" (Romans 5:1-2, 5)



Parish Reconciliation Service

This Lent, give yourself the gift of Confession.

Our Parish Reconciliation Service is this Monday, March 15th at 6:45 PM. Twelve Priest will be available to give forgiveness for sins.

Come, and reconcile with God!

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain