

Jan Gonzalez - 3-29-98

The words which seem appropriate to day, as we celebrate the home going of Jan, are those of a Christian Veteran who said, as he came to the close of life, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, there is laid up for me a crown in glory." Jan like Paul had been involved in the struggle against the enemies of mankind. So she could say as did Paul, "I finished my course." Like Paul, Jan had made the most of life, leaving the world richer because of her living. "I have kept the faith." Jan, like Paul kept the faith to the very end and into eternity.

People today are on the move. They are moving geographically here and there. People change physically, with every cell in one's body changing every seven years. Socially and spiritually one does not stand still. In this constantly changing world, one vital question should be faced, "What are you keeping?"

Like the Apostle Paul, Jan kept the faith. She kept faith with her parents. When parents bring children into the world it is an adventure. They instill a faith in Jan that prevailed even unto death.

Jean's parents can say:

She was sure until it fully known and never could forget how deep and true a father and mother's love for their own may be.

It drew us nearer God himself; for he has loved his son. These are but grateful tears. That she was with us all these happy years.

II She kept faith with her lonely son. She felt a sense of responsibility, spiritually for her son. From the day she united with this Church, she had her son sitting beside her at church. She instilled in her son an appreciation for faith and the pursuit of an education. Thank God he is carrying out the desires of his mother in his life today.

III Jean kept faith with her many friends. An unknown poet has written:

My greatest joy on earth shall be,
to find at the turning point of
every road,

The strong hand of a comrade kind
To help me onward with my load
But since I have no gold to give
And only love can make amends
My daily prayer in life shall be,
God make worthy of my friends."

IV Most important of all, Jean kept faith with God. She started early in life with O - nurtured by her father a Christian Minister and her mother. She kept that faith unto the end.

It was the realization that a greater power was behind her life that gave her courage, that kept a song in her heart, light in her eyes, ~~and~~ and made her dependable for the Kingdom of God. Each of our prayers today should be: "Lord, let me inherit a double portion of Jean's sweet, sweet spirit."