

HOMILY 32ND SUN OT YRC 2019

If I close my eyes, I can fly.
I can taste the rain and touch the sky.
I can catch the wind and make it mine,
and like the sun I'll shine.
Suddenly a door opens wide,
to a thousand paths I've never tried.
Follow, follow me I hear them say,
and you'll find your way.
All that heaven can be,
comes as no surprise,
if I simply close my eyes.

What do you think heaven will be? Do you think you will be able to fly? Will you shine like the sun? Will you have a thousand new experiences? We can only imagine.

In the Gospel reading Jesus is responding to a question posed by the Sadducees, who are a group of priests that ran the temple. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection or eternal life. Since it was not explicit in the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible, it did not exist. So the Sadducees made up this ridiculous question not because they wanted an answer, but because they wanted to make Jesus look foolish. In those times, if a woman's husband died and she had no sons, her deceased husband's brother was to marry her and give her a son, so the son could inherit his father's property and the widow would be taken care of. The widow married and buried seven husbands, but had no sons. I would wonder if she was poisoning them. If I had been the fourth brother, I think I would have said three strikes you're out. The Sadducees asked whose wife she would be in eternal life. Not believing in the resurrection or eternal life, they asked the question to point out how ridiculous the whole idea was. And as usually happens when Jesus is asked a question, he does not answer them directly. He makes them think.

Jesus tells them that in this life you marry and remarry, but after the resurrection you will not marry, you will no longer die, you will be like angels, and you will be children of God. The

resurrection is not recessitation to the same life. It will be a whole new life, a whole new world.

We are more than our bodies, brains and genetic makeup. We have an eternal soul. The eternal soul is kind of like the electricity that lights up bulb and activates a computer. Without the soul, the body is dead and that is what we observe when other people die, but when we die only or body dies, and our soul transitions into whole new life. Our soul transitions into eternal life. In that sense, we do not really die. It is not the end but the beginning. We will maintain our individual identity and will recognize one another. At the time of our death, based upon the person that we are at that time, we will be destined for heaven or hell. Many of us will go to purgatory, a time of purgation or purification. I think this will be a time when you figure out the answers to many of the question that you have now in this world. You will be able to see things as they are rather than seeing the narrow perspective that we have in this world. When our limitations are dropped and we are cleansed and healed, we will be free to be the person God created us to be and we will see God as he is.

We were created to live with God forever in heaven. Jesus whole mission was to save us so we could live with him forever in eternal life. This is a whole new life that we can only imagine. Being born to eternal life is like being born into this world. Before you were born into this world all you knew was the warmth, safety and security of your mother's womb. You could only imagine what this whole world outside is like. We spend many years discovering what our world is like and what the world has to offer. Before we die we can only imagine what heaven will be like. I think it will be a whole new adventure. What do you think heaven will be like? We can only imagine. Let your imagination run wild!