

Religion

Death is often glamorized for us

By FATHER JOSEPH DURKACZ
Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church
Georgetown

Death is something which we will have to face in one way or another throughout our lives. It is a topic which we do not always like to talk about for a variety of reasons. But why? Probably, for the simple reason that we do not like the prospect of leaving this world behind and everything that goes with it, be it loved ones and material wealth. There is also the question for some people whether there is a "beyond" after life on this earth. The prospect of there being nothing after earthly life means many individuals have the attitude to get the most out of earthly life - period, since there is nothing in the after life.

There is a growing fascination in the media with death. Hollywood has presented a number of movies about the subject which

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give some good for thought, although with the understanding that everyone goes to heaven no matter what type of life you have led.

Death is often glamorized for us. It is often a great temptation to whitewash one's life at death and think that all is forgiven by God because He is the "Supreme Nice Guy" who surely wouldn't deny me access to heaven. What do we base this analysis on? Chances are it is the type of popular religion which tells us that God loves us as "we are."

But does this make sense? Am I perfect or do I need to change my life and my response to the call of God. It seems to me, that a

good examination of our lives will lead us to realize that there is some work to be done in our lives otherwise we are saying that we are perfect and in no need of redemption in our lives. It also forces us to get serious about life because death comes at any time in the future and our lives will be laid bare - are we happy with the way things are going?

This does not mean that we become fascinated with death because when we look at death we come to realize that it is that final enemy which we will all have to face sooner or later. There is also the danger of taking death too lightly when we get into the area of modern medicine with the talk of mercy killing and abortion. Each of these result in death to a living human being and we play the role of deciding who will live and who will die - do we have that right? I say no, although some will deny that taking a life is murder. If it is not murder then what is it? In a way, we have become desensitized to death since we see it in the media in reality and fantasy. The one thing to remember is death is permanent.

I remember an old Jesuit Priest once said in a sermon that we must always keep one eye focused on heaven during our lives on earth otherwise we may lose our way there. At your death, there will be a theatrical production and you will be the only one in it. It will be the slide show of your life. Will you be proud of what you see? Will God be happy? Perhaps death is not as glamorous as we think.

40 man choir, picnic part of Norval church anniversary

The congregation of Norval Presbyterian Church are celebrating their 154th anniversary on Sunday, June 2 at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. James Farris of Knox College, Toronto. Assisting in the service will be a soloist and the Choralets, a choir of 40 men. Everyone is invited to join us in fellowship.

A family church picnic has been planned for Saturday, June 1 from 2-7 p.m. on the church lawns. There will be clowns, games and prizes for the young and young at heart, and a walk down memory lane with pictures and stories. Then a barbecue at 4 p.m. (hot dogs, salads and pie)

The present church was built in 1878 and was opened for public worship on February 23, 1879. The total cost of the church approximately \$7,000. This church has come to be recognized as one of the finest sample of Gothic architecture to be found anywhere in Ontario. Ten years later the present manse was built just west of the church at a cost of \$2,700. This serves both charges of Norval and Union.

Over the years each minister and his family brought their own style of worship and friendly interest. No doubt, to become the best known was Rev. Ewen Macdonald from February 1926 to 1935 and his wife the famous L.M. Montgomery. Her "Anne of Green Gables" books have been translated into many languages around the world. While at Norval, she wrote Emily's Quest, Pat of Silver Bush, Magic for Marigold and Mistress Pat.

Many of the local residences of Norval remember Rev. Leonard Self 1943-1950. His wife Joan taught music lessons during her stay. Rev. Self was keenly inter-

ested in sports, and as a result had a rink built in the village and organized hockey, lacrosse and softball. Rev. Self felt that if you can get a child interested in sports, you make contact with the parents, brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts and even grandparents. He also claimed music was a universal contact, and many a savage heart could be tamed with music.

In June 1951 the Rev. Lockhart Royal graduated from Knox College. He and Audrey stayed with us until his call to Goderich in December 1960; where he ministered until his retirement two years ago.

During this time a new memorial organ was installed in 1959 by the Keates Organ Co. of Lucan, in memory of those lives sacrificed in World Wars 1 and 2.

These were active years when the Royals were raising a young family at the same time as many of the congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Royal were greatly loved and respected for their hearty goodwill and friendliness to all in the community as well as the congregation.

In July 1990, the churches of Norval and Union extended the call to the Rev. Mary Campbell, BA Mdiv following her graduation. With her warmth and enthusiasm she has endeared herself to everyone in the Church family.

Regular church services are at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday at Norval, with a Nursery and Sunday school for the children during the worship hour.

We extend an open invitation to join in fellowship with the congregation in Norval.

DIRECTORY OF HALTON HILLS Churches & Temples

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Maple & Guelph, 877-6665

Pastor: Bruce Scott
Youth Pastor: Rob Grainger

SUNDAY:

9:30 Family Teaching Ministry (for all ages)
11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship Service

WEEKDAY EVENTS

Tues. 7:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
Wed. 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
7:00 p.m. Youth Group
Fri. 7:00 p.m. Youth Rec Night (Acton H.S.)
8:00 p.m. Youth Choir

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

Georgetown & Glen Williams
11 Guelph St. Main St., G.W.

PHONE 877-2531

Minister: Rev. Nancy Knox

Minister of Christian Education: Karen Wigston

Sunday Service At

9:30 Glen Williams

11:00 Georgetown

Nursery & Sunday School Available

Communion Service 9:00 a.m. First Sunday of

each month in Georgetown.

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You Are Welcome!

Christian Reformed Church

Trafalgar Rd.

SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Rev. P. Stadt

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7:30 A.M. Hamilton CHAM 820

7:30 P.M. Burlington FM 108

9:00 P.M. Guelph CJOY 1460

and Mon.-Fri. Faith 20

5:30 A.M. Global TV Ch. 6 and 41

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Ladies' Coffee Break Tues. 9:30 a.m.

(Sept. through May)

Daughters of Knox

The Daughters of Knox extend an invitation to all to attend their meeting on June 3 at 8 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton.

CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

Anglican Church of Canada

537 Main St. Glen Williams
(Mountain & Main Sts.)
416-877-8323

Rector: Rev. Carol A. Skidmore, L. Th.

Sunday Services: 8 am, 10:30 am
Church School/Nursery: 10:30 am

Come join us - a warm welcome awaits you!

ENJOY

FAMILY WORSHIP

with an active children's program
- nursery to teens

9:45 A.M.

153rd Anniversary

NORVAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, June 2nd at 11 a.m.

Guest Minister:

Rev. James Farris from Knox College, Toronto
Music by 60 Voice Male Choir in attendance

Halton Gospel Temple

Phone (416) 877-2759



Highway 7 West of Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown
Affiliated with P.A.O.C.
Pastor Rev. David Tapley,
Youth Pastor Rev. Dale Reddekopp

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:45 a.m. Christian Education
11:00 a.m. FAMILY WORSHIP
6:30 P.M. Evening Praise
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Family Night
Friday 7:30 p.m. Youth Alive

Knox Presbyterian Church

Corner Main & Church, Georgetown

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

Junior Congregation

Nursery Facilities

Peter Barrow, B.D., Minister

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Winston Churchill, South of Hwy. 7
Norval

Rev. Richard Ruggle, MA, B.H.
877-3404

Service at 10:30 a.m.

All
Are
Welcome!

St. George's Anglican Church
60 Guelph St., Georgetown 877-8044

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Nursery 9:00 a.m.
Thursdays 10:00 a.m.

Rector:

Rev. Thomas M.S. Kingston, B.A., B. Th.

Pastoral Archdeacon:

Ven. John H. McMulkin, B.A., S.T.B., D.D.



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