

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings in His matchless Name! Sorry to disappoint you if you were looking for something exciting. 😊

In any event this is just an update on the latest goings-on (NOT) in my life. There is not much new to report, but I try to keep busy and meetings are beginning to pop up once again. I preached (again) last Lord's Day evening in my home church due to the generosity of my pastor (Lou Guarneri), who also allows me to teach an adult Sun. Schl. Class. I handed out a questionnaire or survey about possible subjects the members would be interested in, and believe it or not, the largest response came back on the subject of giving. So I am in a series called "Grace Giving". I just today completed my lesson for this Lord's Day on Mark 12:41-44 and the "**widow's mite**" called "**MAGNIFYING THE MITE**". (The 3 main points are: **I. It's Not the Gift, It's the Giver II. It's Not the Size, It's the Sincerity & III. It's Not the Mite, It's the Motive.** By the way, Jesus still stands by the Treasury watching what we give and He weighs the why, not the wealth!)

If you have recently sent a Christmas card or plan to – Thank You for remembering me. This will be my card back to you . **I wish each of you the best Christmas ever and a spiritually prosperous New Year, 2020!** This will be my first Christmas in the last 60 years without my beloved wife, Shirley, and I am already feeling the effects. The season is the reason for the loneliness. It has made me more conscious of others who have lost their loved ones and I now pray daily for pastors and friends in that situation. How I miss my wife, best friend, great Christian and blessed companion. As I was having devotions today I began a mental comparison of how both of our lives have changed. Hers definitely for the better...

FOR ME:

FOR SHIRLEY:

I miss her calling "Paul" for assistance...now there is silence
Housework, cleaning, mealtimes, etc. are almost pointless
Eating alone is an empty experience
Sleeping alone is a cold experience (listening for her)
Driving alone is the pits (She was my designated driver!)
The house is empty and usually silent
Devotion is REALLY a "quiet time"*

Her more than a decade of pain has ceased
Her discomfort and disability has ended
Her helplessness and lack of strength is gone
Her depression has turned into joy (no sleep needed!)
All her needs are being met
She is praising and serving the Savior in Heaven
She doesn't have to read the Word, she is with Him

** (I don't get to hear her read the Bible or pray for others or remind me to pray for someone or something I may have forgotten)*

If all this sounds like I am complaining... *I am!* But I am not bitter. It is an unusual experience, but one we will all sooner or later have to face, unless you and your companion are both saved and go up at the Rapture together! Blessed thought! "**Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**"

In the meantime, just a couple of words of (*free, but very serious*) advice. Treasure your time together, love one another (not just in word, but in daily deeds), pay attention to each other's needs and do whatever you can to fulfill them, enjoy each other physically, emotionally and spiritually, do everything together as much as is possible and serve the Lord together "**as long as ye both shall live.**" Please remember your wedding vows: "**For richer, for poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in health...till death do you part.**"

If all of this sounds like preaching, it's O.K. - that's who I am and what I continue to do. 😊 The last paragraph above is the most important. Please ask the Lord to help you follow this humble advice, while you still can.

Keep looking UP! I miss you all, but will see you soon – here, there or in-the-air.

Sincerely in the Savior,

Pastor (emeritus) Paul C. Fedena

P.S. Please pray for my friends, Evangelist Herb & Mrs. Marge Brail. Due to health concerns they have had to move to a VA nursing facility in Des Moines. It is a new and daunting experience for them.