

Closing Remarks for the Funeral of Nicole and Sarah Dobson

December 11, 2009

As shared by Fr. Lavelle

In any religion or faith, the definition of a martyr is one who sheds his or her blood for their faith or religion. Or.....a person who lives the qualities or virtues of a saint.

What would you call Nicole and Sarah, who lived out the virtues of goodness, innocence and purity?

I would like to call Nicole and Sarah "mini-martyrs."

Christmas is a season of exchanging gifts; Nicole and Sarah have exchanged the precious gift of physical life for eternal life.

I can picture the Good Shepherd saying to both Nicole and Sarah, "You didn't deserve to die, but you deserve and gained heaven.....you deserve and gained heaven."

Any newly born infant could have these post office labels upon them at birth: labels like "fragile", "handle with care", "special delivery" or "return to sender".

This Mass is our personal gift exchange, physical life for eternal life.

With mixed emotions and a weak surrender, we try hesitantly to forfeit the gifts of Nicole and Sarah to the Good Shepherd.

And the Good Shepherd pulls both Nicole and Sarah to his side and whispers to both of them, "Well done good and faithful servants; enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

Do not pray for Nicole and Sarah, but pray to them. Again, not for them, but to them.

We leave here today and because of our Christian faith, we realize that Nicole and Sarah will be enjoying Christmas in heaven. Christmas in heaven! As you teenagers would say, "Christmas in heaven!" "Awesome!"

"Return to sender"....return to sender is no longer a label or trite phrase, but now it is a reality.

Nicole and Sarah are our "mini-martyrs."

And so we return you, Nicole and Sarah back to your sender.

Nicole and Sarah, enjoy Christmas in heaven!

Amen