

Walter Spiak - Eulogy, June 21, 2017

Today as we pray for and remember our dear friend and brother Walter, my first recollections are the many generous loving kindnesses and good things that Walter did.

- Hiring Michael Mellin
- Giving Michael time off whenever he needed it
- paying for Michael's wedding
- Not accepting money for a meal for the Church school children
- Honoring and loving our veterans
- Receiving shipments for the Church Center
- oysters at Kim's wedding
- help and advise in the kitchen for the Yolka and wedding, donating items from the restaurant and other assistance and generosity to the Center Manager

Many, many other things that you may know or that only God knows. Walter did not broadcast his generous good deeds, nor did he seek recognition or gratitude. He did his deeds out of a sincere, kind, generous and loving heart and not because he sought any kind of reward.

Walter passed from this life at what today would be considered a young age. Christ warned His followers to be always on the alert, to be always ready for this encounter. We all make lifelong plans and have ideas about how our life will be. Usually we expect a long and hopefully healthy life. Yet Christ warns us that no one knows the hour or the time when the Lord will come for us. As it says in the Scriptures, "death will come like a thief in the night." We all need to come to terms with death. The question is then: how does one come to terms with death?

There are some people who think they can kiss a Cross, an Icon, or a Bible on their death bed and by so doing make up for a lifetime of sin and separation from God. They forget that preparation for death does not begin on the deathbed. It is a life long preparation. And furthermore, who knows what the circumstances of our death will be and whether or not we will even have the luxury of a deathbed?

Man needs to walk with Christ everyday, preparing himself for the promised life to come. When we draw near to the Holy Mysteries in Church, we must receive it as though we are taking the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the last time in their life. The Lord tells us, "If you do not eat my Body and drink my Blood, then you have no life in you." The Holy Mysteries are not for the remission of sins only, but they are administered for the nourishment of the soul and body; for everlasting life through the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, all good things must come to an end. I know that the immediate family, Walter's friends at St. Basils, and all of his other friends and family here present shared many worthwhile experiences in life with our beloved Walter. We are sad that these experiences have come to an end. Nevertheless, as Christians we believe there is one good thing in life — in fact, it happens to be the best thing there is — and that is our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

You and I now live with certain and glorious expectations that sometime, some day, we shall dwell with Jesus Christ in eternity. The prayer of our Lord to the Father will some day be fully answered. In John 17:24 He said: "Father, I desire that they also whom you have given me may be with me where I am to behold my glory."

Let us remind ourselves that being with Jesus begins now. It is never too late as long as we can breathe. It begins with wanting to be with Him every day, and remembering Him many

times during the day in prayer, in service, in love, in care, in forgiveness. Our life can begin now with being a living member of His Body, the Church. It begins now faithfully in the Mystery of Communion so that His life, His Blood will flow in our veins here and now.

We all will sorely miss Walter. Every time I walk by Spiak's I will think of him and say a prayer for him. We must be thankful for the time we had with Walter and for the wonderful memories. On behalf of myself, the Parish Council, and Parishioners of St. Basil's, I extend to all of you our deepest sympathy and condolences. May Walter's soul find peace and rest, and may his memory be eternal!