

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

This morning I had the privilege of speaking to a radio audience on behalf of our local United Way. While visiting with folks who'd come to the hotel lobby to be part of the show, I spoke with a three time survivor of cancer and to a father who'd lost their first born daughter to the ravages of cystic fibrosis. How does one describe the pain, let alone comprehend it?

Closer to home and within the circle of personal friends and business colleagues, two heart-wrenching crises occurred within the last month. Doctors finally discovered that the near death of a beautiful teen (and close friend of our granddaughters), was the result of a rare form of a disease. Thankfully she finally is on the road to recovery after spending a month in hospital.

The story of the on-going battle to save the life of a co-worker's two year old son isn't yet complete. This precious little fellow fights like a trooper but medical experts still struggle to control his blood pressure and the consequences that accompany the condition. How can this happen to someone so young?

I learned during my own near death experiences to despise easy answers. To use God as an excuse to offer instant healing is both hypocritical and downright dishonest. Sometimes miraculous healings happen; sometimes, they don't. One thing is sure, however: everyday, to someone living somewhere, the words "it's a matter of life and death" shoot arrows through the heart.

But still, the expression speaks of a measure of hope....death is preceded by life. No matter how short or troubled or painful its nature, life has been experienced and life is precious.

As we celebrate Good Friday this week, remember that because of Christ's Death we now can experience Life. Thank God for His sacrifice in moving the words around!