

Claude Roy, c.s.v., homily at Paul Desilets, c.s.v., funeral

Brothers and sisters,

In a letter dated march 10, 2004, our colleague requested that the homily at his funeral be in great part directed at, and I quote: “ the heart of faith, the resurrection, in which I firmly believe”. To commune in our brother’s faith, let us remember the extraordinary words of Jesus in the gospel: “I am the resurrection and the life. Whomever believes in me, even in death, lives; and any man who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?”

Paul Desilet wagered his life, all his life, in his faith of Jesus resurrected. He believed that the resurrection is not in a distant future because whoever believes moves on from death to life, and moreover, into a life without end. Because eternal life, really, is to know now God the Father and his son Jesus Christ. Death, as it is concerned, is not a real death because of Jesus crucified and resurrected. Jesus conquers both sin and death.

Our brother(colleague) Paul firmly believed that victory is achieved through God’s love. Certainly as he was gasping for his last breath he may have felt his God’s overwhelming presence and discover the great tenderness that inhabits His heart.

Desilet loved a meditation on death by the Jesuit, Auguste Valensin. Let me quote in part: The feelings I would wish for when I die: to think that I will discover tenderness. It is impossible that God will disappoint me. I will go to Him and will say: I do not avail myself of anything except to have believed in your goodness. That is my strength, all my strength, my only strength.

Today our brother discovered a God the Father of infinite mercy and love that reaches beyond our human understanding. John the apostle(Saint Jean) in his first letter wrote these unforgettable words: My children, we must love, not with words and sermons, but through our actions and with truthfulness. By doing so, we agree that we belong to the truth and before God we will be at peace; our heart could fault(accuse) us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

God saw in Paul’s life and in his person what belonged to real love. The merciful gaze of God upon the human being reaches beyond any condemnation emanating from the heart of Man. It knows that the human being is greater than his sin. Now Paul is sharing in the infinite knowledge of God which conquers all. Because God’s glory is to be merciful.

Dear brothers, Paul Desilets’s life and death take us back to this merciful Love. Just like our brother may we everyday renew ourselves in this mystery. We will thus reach the heart of faith, so dear to our brother Paul, Jesus who died and was resurrected. By

sharing the Body and Blood of Christ, let us express our trust in God. He will know to keep our faith in his love and in the hope of his return.

Claude Roy, c.s.v.

Provincial Superior

August 30th, 2010

Rev. Richard O. Matte