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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Submitted by Sister Christelle Watercott

September 11, 2018

(Note: I want to share these “Miracle Stories” with you—sent by Sister Jeremia’s niece, LaVerne Schaefer, in Albuquerque, NM. She and her husband, Gerry, have been faithful donors of ours for many years. When Gerry died last April, they requested that Memorials be given to us, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls. I asked LaVerne if I could share these stories with you. –Sister M. Christelle Watercott)

“My Story of Light and Belief: After our caregiver had to give up working with Gerry and me because she was needed back at the house where she originally worked, we contacted another company and were sent another caregiver to help care for Gerry. He was a Navajo Indian man – and after just a few hours with Gerry, we knew that God had another plan for us. He was the most gentle, kind, and considerate person. As he cared for Gerry – and for me – he talked with us, prayed with, and for us, and was just the person we needed. He told us some of the beliefs of the Navajo Indians and they were so much like what we believe. He spoke of all God’s creations – the earth, the sun, the moon, the wind, the spirits – all of which help us attain our place in heaven. He asked that I light a candle and keep it burning as that was Gerry’s light to help guide him in his journey. When Gerry left us and was on his way to God and heaven, Abel immediately went to the mountains and picked cedar needles from the cedar tree. When home again, he heated the needles and they gave off an aroma which filled the whole house. He went to Gerry’s bedside, with needles in hand, and prayed with him. He asked that the spirits light his way and take him to heaven. As he finished his prayer and turned toward his candle, the flame went out! And he said to me ‘The spirits have lighted his way and have taken him home and he is with God’. I SAW ALL THIS WITH MY OWN EYES – AND I BELIEVE!!”

At Gerry’s Funeral Mass: “Gerry’s funeral Mass was scheduled to be said at 10 AM on April 17, 2018. Loved ones were asked to say the readings – and the first person up was Bryan Holliday. As he approached the podium he became sentimental, tears started, and he had a hard time clearing his throat and getting started. After a few seconds of what seemed like an eternity, my phone rang. What a loud ring in the silence of the whole church! Bryan immediately called out, ‘Is that Grandpa calling?’ I shouted, ‘That must be God calling!’ And with that, the panic was broken, the audience laughed, and Bryan had gained his composure to continue his reading! The miracle that happened, though, was that when I checked my phone to see who called at that exact moment, there was no record of any phone call, text, message, or anything at all!”