

Funeral homily for Angela White:

A story: A man driving on a desolate country road realizes that he has lost his way. Since night is about to fall, he is uneasy, and panics. He simply does not know where to turn. He sees a boy off in the distance sitting on a fence post. He calls out to him: "Young man, I am lost. Where does this road lead? "I have not the faintest clue", he replied. Well, if I turn and go east, where will the road take me?" Again the boy replied, "Who knows?" "If I turn and go in a westerly direction, where will it lead?" Don't know". Now exasperated, he angrily asks the boy a final question, "Do you know anything?" "Oh yes", replied the boy. "I know I am not lost".

Sad to say, for too many today in our secular, unbelieving culture, human life has no destination. There is no highway to heaven. In many of our universities, students are taught that life has no purpose and is, in truth, utterly meaningless. There is nothing awaiting us. There are no doors opening to God. With death comes eternal night. The human person falls back into absolute nothingness. Their message is bleak: a joyless life followed by never ending death.

Everything is over!

Should we at all be surprised that so many of our young people walk about aimlessly, without any sense of direction?

The Church offers a more hopeful message. She believes in everlasting life.

Early Christians called themselves followers of the Way. In today's reading from the Gospel of John, Jesus calls himself, "the Way, the Truth and the Life". Jesus is the way to heaven, the goal of our earthly pilgrimage and final destination He is leading us to "His Father's House".

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was once asked if she looked forward to death. She smiled. "Of course, because I am going home".

Angela White was led by Christ, her Lord and teacher. A mother of thirteen children, she fulfilled her mission in this life, awaiting the reward promised her after death. In Medieval times it was said, "If you do not travel with the king whom you seek, you will not find him at the end of your journey". A day seldom passed that Angela did not travel with her king.

Death is the beginning of eternal life. For Angela, life is changed, not ended.

May Our Lord grant her a merciful judgment, and when our earthly days are over, let us pray to be reunited with our dear Angela, a woman of strong character and faith.