

If you are of advanced age, you may recall two words that turned up on the movie screen in theaters after the final scene: "THE END". Once the patrons see the words, the curtain then falls, the lights return to the theater, and they begin to depart for home. The story is finished. There is no sequel.

For many in our secular-leaning culture death means 'the end'. In our universities students are taught that after death, there is only oblivion, a fall into a deep black hole. Life has no destination. How depressing!

In John Lennon's popular song, "Imagine", the songwriter acknowledges his lack of faith in an afterlife.

The words of the song may be familiar to you:

"Imagine there's no heaven

It's easy if you try

No hell below us

Above us only sky

Imagine all the people living for today

Contrast his gloomy vision of life with that of Christ. The words that Christ speaks of in the gospel are words of life--- eternal life.

In today's funeral mass the priest recites the following words:

"For your faithful, Lord

Life is changed, not ended.

And when this earthly dwelling turns to dust

An eternal dwelling is made for them in heaven.

Engraved on the tombstone of one of our great Christian poets of the last century, T.S. Eliot, is an inscription that reads, "In the end is my beginning". The words are taken from his masterwork, "four Quartets".

The words of the creed come to mind: *I believe in everlasting life*". *Life beyond the grave is nothing less than mysterious..Even the great evangelist Saint Paul admits as much in one of his letters, writing, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard nor the heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"*.

Several years ago I spotted a bumper sticker on the tail end of a car which, to this very day, I have not forgotten. "Life sucks, and then you die". What a harsh and dismal way to tell the human story. A joyless life followed by never ending death.

How different is the message of the Church of Christ. It does not announce that everlasting death awaits us. Quite the contrary!

Christ says, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (Jn. 11:25-26)..

Above all else, Barbara Kerwin was a woman of God and a devout parishioner. Hers was a love affair for Christ.

According to one of her children, Barbara "liked long drives". She has completed her earthly pilgrimage. It was a long journey. But in crossing over to eternity Barbara traveled a short distance__ from one room to another.

The Irish-American playwright, Eugene O' Neal once wrote a play entitled, "A Long Day's Journey into Night". Barbara has just completed her story, which, I suggest, be entitled, "A Long Night's Journey into the dawn of day"

The night will never return.

Let perpetual light shine on her.

