

Reflection from the LAAMB

Congratulations to Emily Hobson, Jean Hayes and Don Standen

On Their Truly Wonderful Milestones

Some of you, like me, may have grown up watching Red Skeleton. I remember watching him on Sunday evening from seven o'clock till eight on TV and then I had to go to bed. But even though I didn't want to go to bed, Red left me with a very positive uplifting experience of life before I laid my head on the pillow. He would always end his show by taking off his hat with a sincere humble expression on his face, saying, "Good night, and may God Bless!" While I was looking up Red Skeleton on the computer I came up with this other saying of his,

"Real birthdays are not just annual affairs. Real birthdays are the days when we are given a new birth."

I think Red put it right. Real birthdays give us new life. Emily celebrated her 100th birthday with Ken and family at her side. Sharing smiles and looking exceptionally regal she was definitely queen of the day. Having faced so many serious illnesses in her life Emily enjoys every single day especially last Monday celebrating a very special birthday.

Both Jean and Don talked about their 90th birthday celebration which happened over the week-end, as a very real-life giving experience. Jean told us last Tuesday at God's Coffee Hour that her 90th birthday experience was so wonderful, so uplifting! Jean then took the time to thank individual people for sending her cards and videos. A lot of people sent in videos expressing their birthday greeting to Jean. Then, one of her family members put all those videos together so that Jean could watch them all. Afterwards, a great surprise to Jean, there was a camera that had been on her while she was watching these videos. When they played that back to her, she and others could see all her expressions on her face. One could see her ear to ear smile, the glow in her eyes and hear the fullness of her laughter. There was no doubt that Jean was enjoying every moment. Jean said, "it was so beautiful to see all my friends again, to see all those people from my church again and to hear their voices. It was as if I had a visit from them."

There is no doubt that Jean was given a new lease on life on that Sunday as she was able to reconnect with all those people she loves so much.

Don had a similar experience as a drive-by 90th birthday party was organized for him. Don sat on a bench as musicians played live music while all these cars honked their horns and drove by Don, stopping to express their birthday wishes to him. Lore and I were in the line and took a few more minutes to talk with Don. His first words to us were, with a huge smile on his face, "Hi Lore and Perry---so good to see you! What a wonderful party!!!! To see all these people, some who I haven't been able to see or hear from for over five months makes me so happy." Then he added, with his face lit up, "my family said there are over 130 cards from people and that's not including the ones I am getting from the people in these cars." Yes, Don also was given a new lease on life because of all those good wishes and visits from family and friends he loves.

So once again, Congratulations to Emily Hobson, Jean Hayes and Don Standen

It is such a blessing to have you as part of our parish family!!!

Let me go back to Red Skeleton. He knew the importance of making people smile, laugh and feel good about themselves. It was a special healing that no pill or drug could give you. Red with all his humility might not say this, but I will. When we contribute to the well being of another, it becomes a special gift of love from God through his people.

It is interesting because it makes me think of another way of looking at Red Skeleton's saying, "Real birthdays are not just annual affairs. Real birthdays are the days when we are given a new birth."

We have the opportunity each day to give someone a new birth. It is by the way we make them smile, laugh and feel good about themselves. Go and do it!!!

Perry