

A Good Word for Katherine Chandler
January 16, 2007

I offer a good word for a good woman. A homemaker is so much more than a stay-at-home mom. It sounds to me like Katherine truly “made the home.” That takes dedication, commitment, love, and a lot of hard work. Her true love was taking care of everybody. It was noted by her children that they are absolutely sure she has taken over the reins of the Welcome Wagon of Heaven. Ralph was more of the quiet one – Katherine was the one to love the parties. She was a wonderful seamstress, crafty, loved to travel – and I have a picture in my mind’s eye of all this being accomplished with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye.

She created a sense of home wherever she went. It seems to me that her presence was all it took to make people feel at home. That’s the real definition of homemaker. Her gracious way. Her sense of humor – even when she wasn’t trying to be funny. You, who knew her best and loved her most, should let those memories flood your minds and hearts, knowing that for every tear there is a corresponding smile.

Sixty-six years married – after dating for 7 years. She and Ralph built more than a family together. They built a life together. And that life together gave them a sense of adventure for their many moves. Katherine’s ability to hold everything together – even through all of their transitions – is but another indication of her dedication and devotion to family and making the home one that was filled with love and smiles.

I’m so grateful that today is a sunny day – for Katherine did love the sun. I remember one visit in particular with her. It was a beautiful spring day and the staff at the facility in which she lived suggested I take her out to the courtyard patio. I do believe she could have sat there all day – not caring one bit that the sun was so bright that it almost

hurt your eyes. The sun's rays seemed to bring healing to her soul. It's as if the sun's warm and brightness gave her strength for the journey. It's interesting then, that God's very first act of creation was "*let there be light!*" . . . *and God saw that the light was good.*" Katherine knew about goodness. She must have had a sense of God's presence even from the first act of creation – gaining strength from the One who is often described as Light.

And so it dawned on me (pun intended!), that God and Katherine had a lot in common. Perhaps the best description I could think of to describe God would be homemaker – creating for us a world filled with relationships that need to be tended. Katherine must have drawn her inspiration from the One who made a home for her in the first place. In God's great abundance, we see love flowing and grace abounding. And surely, early on Sunday morning, God must have smiled to know that another homemaker would be abiding – forever – in God's presence.

And so we gather here, on a cold and sunny day, to remember a life well lived. And we gather here, on a cold and sunny day, to give thanks to God for Katherine Chandler. And we gather here, on a cold and sunny day, to shed a few tears and to crack a few smiles ourselves – knowing that Katherine Chandler was much more than a homemaker – she was a Child of God and her real name was Beloved.