

**Mass of Christian Burial Honoring  
George Joseph Charlet, Jr.**

February 13, 2009

On behalf of Sue, Nicole, Miriam, G.J, Jordan, Betty, (MamMaw) and Buddy (PapPaw), Patti, Linda, Pete and the Charlet Family, it is an honor and privilege to speak on their behalf for no eulogy, sermon in just a few minutes time will ever serve George his due, for I was blessed to know him a short 27 years.

I heard someone say about George, he is the greatest man I have ever known. Greatness comes in many forms, but when you go beyond greatness, this is very unique and rare, this is saintliness. And, George is **Beyond Greatness.**

A friend to everyone he met, and a friend forever.

And of course, the many, many little deeds and things he did that he tried to hide, that made him beyond greatness, like if he didn't have a bed to sleep in, he just slept on the hard floor. On one retreat we were on, he slept on the concrete floor all night. No pillow. He gave up his

room at Manresa so another could have his room and made a hammock in the attic and had to put newspaper down to cover the filth and grime.

**Beyond Greatness**, like always picking up the tab when dining out with friends and paying for their meal, and if he knew anyone else in the restaurant, in which he did, he paid for theirs. The many Boy Scouts and Youth activities that George took care of, unknowing to these Scouts or young people, so they can experience life. Because George read his Bible, he has paid our debt.

**Beyond Greatness**, as he would be talking to you, he would make sure you knew three (3) things:

First, as you were talking, he would say: Hey, Hey, Shu-Shush, Hush up, **I love you! Do you hear me? I - love - you!**

Second, he would say: **You belong to me, ---you are mine!**  
- - And why would he do that, because he meant it, he was being --  
--- Jesus to us.

Then, his favorite saying: “I want you to understand something; **Today is the First Day of the Rest of your Life.**”

Because he knew from the business he was in, life can be taken from you in an instant.

Then as he walked away, he would write their name in the palm of his hand, so he could remember to pray for them later on.

(PAUSE) As George would pray his Bible,

**I will hold you in the palm of my hand.**

Some of us still have a flat rock with our name on it as he would put it in his shoe as a reminder to pray for us.

After he brought me thru a desert and a retreat and, constantly being told me these three things by him, eventually this was the foundation of why I stand on this altar today.

**Beyond Greatness**, he showed us how the Father loved the Son because George loved each and every one of us with that spirit, he loved us like Jesus would. He was Jesus for us. And when you are loved and held safe like that, you never want that love to go away. That is what we all thought in the back of our minds, he would live forever, George would always be there for us, as we would say, “He’s not going

anywhere, he is always there for me,” (PAUSE) as he prayed the Scripture,

**I will be with you till the end of time.**

**Beyond Greatness**, George, an icon of a Catholic Christian, (PAUSE), but now that icon is gone. As someone told me, “What are we going to do now? Who is going to fill his shoes? How do we fill those huge footprints of his?” We don’t, we are going to do just as George meditated in the Gospels...

**Come, follow me!**

As you can see, he went on and on and on with many little things that go **Beyond Greatness**.

And the best way that I know to summarize George’s saintliness is that every morning, George would wake up, wherever he was, in the embalming room, on a concrete floor, or in an attic and he would say, “Good Morning God, would you be with me today, would you walk with me, and God would say, “Sure!” And God and George would live the day. Then on one morning, George got up and asked God the same

thing, “Good Morning God, would you be with me today, would you walk with me?”

This time God said, “You know George, I have always walked with you but, I want you to walk with me today and to my home.” And George said, “Sure!”

That is why on Monday, February 9, 2009, God came along and said, “George Joseph Charlet, Jr., Guess what? Truly, **Today is the First Day for the Rest of your Life!**”

Peace of Christ,

Deacon Ronnie