

Funeral for Raymond Leclerc

Born: February 8, 1930 Died: June 4, 2011 Age: 81

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Gospel: Matthew 7:24-25

Homily:

All of the members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church extend our condolences to Raymond's family members. We know that recent times associated with Raymond's illness and this present time of mourning his death are difficult times and we assure you of our prayers and support. We appreciate how he served this parish as an usher, and his many expressions of loyalty to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

Those of you closest to Raymond are mindful of how he touched your lives as a great teacher, father, father-in-law, relative, and friend.

Most of all, Lella will cherish the memories of her husband with whom she shared the promises of marriage since July 5, 1952. Lella appreciated her relationship with Raymond so very deeply, cherishing him as her very best friend and her sturdy rock of support.

All of you treasure the many ways Raymond blessed your lives as a fine listener, one in whom you could confide and you could be sure that he would give you sound advice. You knew him as one who lovingly taught you so many things.

With all of these things in mind, we chose the Gospel story from the Book of Matthew that was proclaimed a few moments ago. Jesus taught His followers to listen carefully to His words and to act on them. He told us that if we listen carefully to His words and put them into practice, we will be like a wise man who built his house on solid rock. The many storms of life will come, yet the house will not collapse because it had been set so very solidly.

Many will be the times in the future when Raymond's teachings, his sound words of advice, his example to you concerning promotion of family values and a life built on faith will come to mind.

You will think of Raymond's life and be confident that he took to heart the teaching of the Gospel.

And you will find that the Lord will continue to console, guide, and sustain you as you continue life's journey.

May Jesus in His great love calm your fears and enable you to trust that He has welcomed Raymond to His everlasting care.

May you know that God has raised Raymond up, bearing him on eagle's wings and delivering him from all of the difficult challenges associated with his final illness that he faced.

This same Lord who rose from the dead to bring new life to His departed faithful people will be with you as you face this challenge of saying goodbye in one sense to Raymond, and in each and every challenge in times to come.