

10/31/2024

Remembered...

For better or worse, Taylor Swift features prominently in our household. My daughter is a dedicated “Swiftie.” There are plenty of Swift’s songs that I like, and some that I do not. Mostly the latter are some that I did like until I realized what the lyrics were. With eleven albums, all featuring songs she either wrote or cowrote, Swift is astoundingly prolific, and her style has matured with time. There is one song, called “Marjorie,” that may have escaped your notice. The song is a tribute to Swift’s late maternal grandmother, opera-singer, Marjorie Finlay. In the song Swift mentions nuggets of wisdom that Marjorie had given her over the years.

These pearls of insight are offered in beautifully contrasting couplets and clearly continue to shape Swift, as she imagines her grandmother speaking them to her still. Swift also includes this refrain:

“What died didn’t stay dead,
what died didn’t stay dead,
you’re alive, you’re alive,
in my head.”

That is a idea with which many of us can probably identify. That so long as one is remembered, they are in some sense still with us. When we gather this coming Sunday to mark All Saints’ Day, we will include in our prayers those beloveds of our lives whom we see no longer in this world, but for whom our love still burns.

We will call out their names and say in essence, “you are remembered,” even as we commend them to God’s care. We carry their memories within and, like Swift, strive to learn from their examples and the wisdom they passed on to us. Yet, we also know that they live in another sense, not reflected in Swift’s song. We know they are alive in the presence of God. That our Lord is already doing more for them now than we could ask or imagine. That their suffering is over and that we will see them again. Further, that they are part of the great Communion of Saints that surround us, with their love and prayers, encouraging us to persevere faithfully.

Here is a link to Swift’s song and a video that includes the lyrics.

<https://youtu.be/hP6QpMeSG6s?si=UUObItiZDI6lemQd>

As always, I welcome your feedback: frpatrick@scbythesea.org

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Patrick