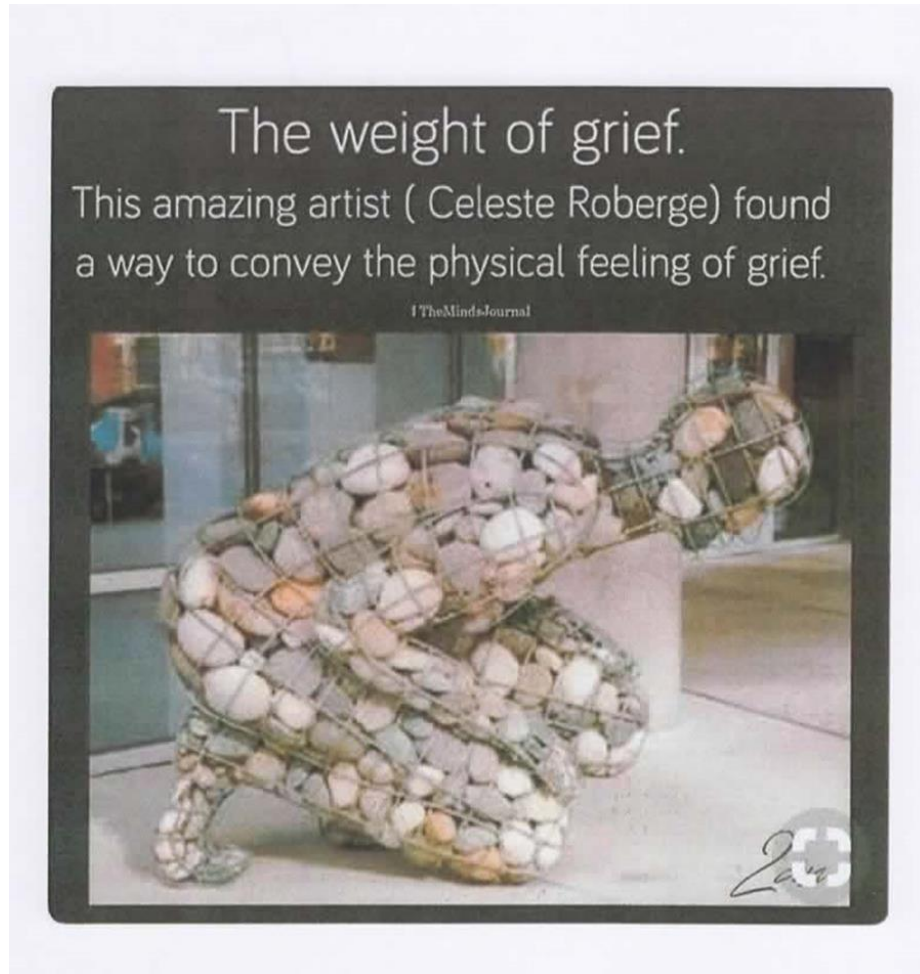


Consoled by Jesus: Grief and Faith Sharing Group
Church of St. Therese in Deephaven, Minnesota
Facilitator: Kathleen Conway
November 2020 Reflection



*The message below comes from the book: **Praying our Goodbyes**, by Joyce Rupp*

Stand Strong in the Resurrection

If we were left with Jesus' emptiness and desolation, if we had only our kinship with him in his goodbyes, it would not be enough to sustain us in our own leave-taking. We would draw comfort, but we would not have the hope of a future hello.

The beauty of the paschal mystery, the mystery of passing over from death to life, of moving from goodbye to hello, is that it ends with hello.

If Calvary is the deepest **goodbye** that anyone has ever known, then the resurrection is the greatest **hello** that anyone has ever proclaimed. The Father, the one whom Jesus treasured and with whom he yearned to be at home, surprised humanity and raised the Beloved from the dead.

Looking back on the resurrection experience, the disciples could say, “Now we understand...this is the green of the wheat seed that has fallen on the ground and died” (Jn12:24). This is the rejoicing that follows the mourning (Mt5:5). This is the light after the darkness (Jn8:12). This is the blessing of taking up the cross and following (Lk 9:18-27).

Their understanding of the resurrection gave their world a different look.

They could hold bread and notice how it was broken before it was shared; they could see the butterfly and remember the truth of a torn and empty chrysalis; they could awake in the morning, feeling the sunlight warm upon their faces and remember that dawn always follows the night.

Jesus was transformed. His risen presence with them transformed their world. They were never the same again. **The memory and reality of Jesus’ death and resurrection had put all of goodbye into perspective for them.**

Jesus risen is a proclamation of “hello.”

He is a witness to us that when goodbyes do come that we can grow through them. We can be changed, transformed. We can be raised from our empty places of loss and can experience something new within us. *Jesus risen proclaims: “Stay close to the Father when you suffer from goodbyes. Lean on this love and believe in His power to sustain you and to raise you from your dark and lonely places.”*

We must take our suffering and always view it from the perspective of the resurrection.

We must look upon our goodbyes from the direction of hello.

We must stand strong in the resurrection, believing that there is something beyond death, there is something beyond pain and hurt and heartache.

Here is where our strength and hope lie.

This is the power of the resurrection at work in us.

Joyce Rupp, Praying our Goodbyes, pages 54-56



*A light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
John 1:5*