

**Homily and Remembrance**  
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Jesus praises his father for what has been hidden from the learned and the wise, but has been revealed to the child-like. We may ask the question; is Jesus being anti intellectual. From the rest of what the scriptures tell us about Jesus the answer is no. He is not dismissing the learned and wise as unworthy of the kingdom because of the knowledge they have, but because they are not childlike. What is this quality that children possess that many of the learned and the wise do not? It is an openness to life and most importantly to that which is transcendent; truth, beauty and love. Jesus is being critical of those who have stopped seeking these transcendent qualities that children are naturally attracted to.

The difficulty with seeking truth, beauty and love is that we can often find the opposite. Instead of truth we find falsehood, instead of beauty we find ugliness, and instead of love we find rejection. The message of Jesus both in what he taught and in the way he lived his life, was one of being open to all that life offered. Not to close down when we are disappointed in our seeking of these transcendent realities, but to remain child-like to the wonder of the world; to always remain a seeker.

Tony was a seeker. He was someone who was constantly looking for that which was transcendent. His life was dedicated to beauty. Art was his passion. He enjoyed every aspect of art. He appreciated the art that others created and was a life long student of art. He took great pleasure in teaching his students to appreciate art. Tony loved to talk about art in all of its many forms. But perhaps his greatest pleasure came from creating his own art. He filled his life with the beauty which is to be found in art.

Tony also sought the truth He abhorred anything that was false or phony. This was true in the world of art but also in every other aspect of his life. He had an intensity about him that came from his great desire to know and to understand. To find the truth was his goal. Not so much the factual truth, though this was important to him, but more so to find the greater truth in all of life.

Tony was a seeker of love. He loved his wife Kay of 24 years. He loved his children Michelle, David, Benjamin and Marc. He loved his grandchildren Jessica and Dylan. And they loved him in return. Tony and Kay are some of the most hospitable people I have ever known. Their home is open to all and all were welcomed there with love and acceptance.

I received a special a Christmas gift this year. It came late Christmas night when Kay called to see if I could come to OSU hospital, because Tony had asked to speak with me. In 16 years of ministry, of being with people who were dying, I have never been with someone who was so close to death and yet so fully alive. Tony was still seeking, still

wanting to make contact, still loving. He was totally present to me despite the pain and discomfort that he was in; despite the fact that he was grieving his own impending death. Being with Tony that Christmas night was a feeling of great intimacy. I left that night feeling very honored that he had wanted to see me and spend time with me at this most important time of his life.

It is my faith that this desire to find what is transcendent does not end with death, but is fulfilled in death. We were not created to seek out truth, beauty, and love only to have it frustrated in the end. I believe that Tony has found what he searched for all of his life.