

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:2

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

My family and I had to say goodbye to my mother on January 13th at 1:30 am. As I held her hands as she took her last few breaths, I spoke to her, prayed, and I can honestly say, I felt her spirit leave her body when she passed away. I did not have to check for a heartbeat or check if she was still breathing. I felt her spirit leave her body. My mom fought for 4 1/2 years with ovarian cancer. She did not lose that fight. It was time for her to be called home to heaven. As much as it hurts, I find little signs that she is still with me every day.

I stumbled on one of those signs as I struggled with finding a verse in the Bible to submit for a devotional. As I looked around my parent's house, I was surrounded by many, many, many, verses from my mother's cross-stitches staring me right in the face. It is like when you are looking in the fridge for the ketchup and it is right in front of you. Her cross-stitched verse from Hebrews called to me.

My mom loved to cross-stitch her entire life. She also was Guardian Angel's biggest fan. There was not a single room in her house without a Guardian Angel stitching. I have two in my car, and she has one in my dad's car and one in her car. I do not believe in coincidences; I believe in signs from the Angels and signs from my mom. Mom's sign to me to entertain strangers became real.

One day, I had to go for a follow-up doctor's appointment, which was at the same facility my mom had both of her surgeries, all her chemo treatments, and all of her other treatments earlier this week. I did not realize how hard this would be for me until I was in the building. While I was in the cafeteria waiting for my bloodwork to be processed and meet with the doctor there was a woman in front of me in line. She had a head-wrap on, eyebrows drawn on her face, and very pale... I could tell she was a cancer patient, and it broke my heart. It breaks my heart when I see any cancer patient.

She had a banana-nut-muffin and a small coffee... Something my mom would get sometimes when she was waiting for her bloodwork to be processed before she met with her oncologist before she had chemo. I felt my eyes tearing up and exclaimed to the man at the register she and I were together. She turned back and said, "no we are not together!" I asked her if I could please buy her breakfast, my mom passed away around a month ago and I missed her so much and I wanted to do something nice for her since my mom wasn't with me.

The action I took spread throughout the cafeteria. Several workers came up to me and talked with me. Some people left notes on my table saying "God is smiling down on you" and "You are loved." The woman came up to me and said that I made her an entire month and she said she wished she could hug me. I told her we could hug again one day but for now, this is the way we can show love to one another.

The Angels were there. The Angels are always here. My mom believed that wholeheartedly and I do.

*Prayer:* Lord help us live, entertain strangers, and share the company of your angels. Amen.

Submitted by Stacey Pues for the Twenty-eighth Reading of Lent