

**Homily given for my mother, Estrella Estévez,
at the Funeral Mass at
St. Raphael Catholic Church
February 3, 2015.**

The time is running out - said St. Paul to the Corinthians. For the world in its present form is passing away.

Last Sunday, as the universal Church was receiving this message from the Scriptures, my mother, Estrella, closed her eyes and hoped beyond hope to move from this passing world to the other world where time does not run out, for eternity takes over and reigns in God's world.

Quite often, in fact daily, my mother said with total sincerity St. Teresa of Avila's soothing poem,

*Nada te turbe
Nada te espante
Todo se pasa
Dios no se muda.
La paciencia todo alcanza
Quien a Dios tiene
Nada le falta
Solo Dios basta.*

My family, the Church, join in prayer today to commend Estrella to the eternal Father. We were blessed by her gift of love. She was such a tender, gentle woman; a woman of character and strength who met incredible sufferings through her long life. She learned submission to God's Will, accepting all in love rooted in God's merciful love.

In celebrating this Eucharist today, we're in the parish where Sunday after Sunday she was fed with the bread of life, the bread of eternal life. One

cannot find a deeper communion of our hearts than this sacred bond. In Him, in His Saving death, our lives are saved, forgiven and restored. In coming to this banquet of life, we partake of His body and blood – the Lord's gift of Himself.

Often the Eucharist is named the Viaticum, the bread that sustains our journey into our final destination, the glorious destination of being with the Lord of Glory and Light, the Risen Lord. Eternal light grant unto them because God's mercy is eternal and so that this life may become our own. Blessed are the believers who embrace the good news of true life, life eternal, forever and ever. Amen.