

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Acts 16.

Romans 16:16 "Greet one another with a holy kiss."

1 Cor. 16:20 "Greet one another with a holy kiss."

2 Cor. 13:12 "Greet one another with a holy kiss."

1 Thes. 5:26 "Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss."

Yesterday, a very wonderful lady and strong believer went home to be with the Lord. Her name was Patty, and she was the grandmother to my son-in-law Garrett. After battling vascular dementia and Alzheimer's, for the past 6 years, God finally called His dear, sweet daughter home.

One thing that I will always remember about Patty is the way she greeted me and so many others, "with a holy kiss."

Sometimes, with different forms of dementia, we forget certain things, but her greeting others was so ingrained within her that this was something she could not forget. In a day when too many things are over sexualized, we have lost the pure and undeniable ability to greet one another with love and respect. Today, if someone misgenders or uses a wrong pronoun of another, they can be fired from their jobs without realizing they have offended another.

While I know Patty is safe in the arms of her dear Savior, Jesus, I will never forget the love and respect she showed so many. Today, maybe a simple handshake, hello or goodbye, will suffice, but even there, can't this be done in a way that is loving and kind, being respectful of the other person, no matter who they are?

While many germs are present, or the chance to be misunderstood is always a part of life, a kiss might not be the most appropriate greeting for today, but respect never grows old or outdated. I will always cherish the memory of this wonderful lady, who loved and respected others and showed the love of Christ to family, friends, and to her church community.