

**Homily – Funeral Mass for Eva Mireles
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Uvalde–June 10, 2022, 10:00 AM**

We suffer the loss of Eva Mireles because of her love. Now millions of people have come to know and share that love for her and for all who got to know her. We all mourn together, in faith. Even as we weep, we strive to imitate Jesus, who also wept for his friend Lazarus.

Our hearts cry out the words of the psalm: “Relieve the troubles of my heart; And bring me out of my distress. Put an end to my affliction and my suffering; and take away all my sins.” Our first instinct is to ask God: why? However, in time and with patience we must transition to a different question: what for? We already have an answer, but it will continue to unfold as time goes by and we grow in our faith through our grief. It takes time and that is okay.

We believe in an eternal and almighty God. He created us in his image, so that we can freely chose to love Him back and follow his will, loving others as He has loved us. In the process, the Holy Spirit makes us grow after God’s likeness. He is so powerful, that he can turn evil against itself. God makes use even of what is done against his divine will to help us fulfill his plan to save us. Nothing and no one can escape from the outreach of God’s mercy.

We heard it said in the first reading: “he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.” And in the second reading: “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” However, He is not like the judges of this world. He is himself our recompense, as He is the face of the Father’s mercy. His judgment is mercy!

Even in this life we begin to receive the recompense of the Lord’s own sacrifice on the cross, as we begin to identify with the

same attitudes and works that he practiced: namely, regarding others as more important than ourselves, each looking out not for their own interest, but for those of others. Those who knew Eva only need an instant to remember such attitudes in her as a dedicated wife, mom, daughter, sister, friend, and educator. The whole world has become a witness of her smile and even her outgoing and funny personality. She loved to contemplate God's work in nature, and she cultivated God's work in her own body, by taking care of her health enthusiastically in the gym. In many ways she was already a reflection of some of God's own perfections.

She was God's work in the making. The Lord said: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me..." Eva was a gift from God and we trust in His mercy that she remains to be. True love can only come from God and she had plenty of it. It is witnessed by the love that she is shown here today from so many people – including Ruben and her daughter Adalynn, as well as her Mother Paula and Stepfather Santiago; her sisters, Maggie and Sandra; her mother in law, Cynthia, the members of her extended family, so many friends, former students and their families, and the entire community, now stretched to the world.

We entrust Eva to God's mercy, that He may finish in her the work that He began while she was physically with us. We pray that we will join her one day in the eternal joy of heaven.

Blessed Mother of Guadalupe, we entrust Eva to your tender intercession.