

Amazing co-incidence at Edna Manley's passing

AN UNUSUAL co-incidence in which the late Mrs. Edna Manley was lulled to sleep by a recording of the hymn, "Amazing Grace", last week Monday night and her younger son, Michael, kept singing the hymn as he jogged on Tuesday morning, unaware of his mother's death, was related by the Rev. Fr. Hugh Sherlock during the sermon at her funeral service in the Kingston Parish Church on Sunday.

Rev. Sherlock related the co-incidence as he recalled two incidents and repeated a number of texts, which the late Mrs. Manley cherished. He said:

"Two remarkable incidents occurred just before she answered her home call. Michael Manley on the Tuesday morning of his mother's death kept singing the words of the hymn, 'Amazing Grace' and, try as he might, he could not restrain himself. Even while jogging on his customary early morning route at Mona, it was 'Amazing Grace' that kept pace with his rhythmic strides.

"Even in the car on the homeward journey he was still singing the hymn and when his companions asked him why this unusual singing, he could not explain it, so they too joined in and sang with him.

"Now, unknown to Michael, Easton Lee, their close friend, had taped and played 'Amazing Grace' for his mother the night before and it was 'Amazing Grace' that she told Easton, in an ecstasy of delight, that she would play and listen to until she fell asleep — a sleep

which turned out to be her last on this side.

"Do you remember the words?"

*'Amazing Grace, how
sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like
me.
I once was lost but now
I'm found
Was blind but now I see.'*

"So, 'Amazing Grace', unknown to Michael, played his mother to sleep and 'Amazing Grace' haunted Michael all that morning before he knew of his mother's death; and sustained and strengthened him all that first day without her living presence. For him, this has become an enriching spiritual experience". Relating the second remarkable experience, the Rev. Sherlock said:

"For some time, Edna Manley discussed with Easton Lee her wish to paint a picture of Our Lord raising Lazarus from the dead, but she had some mental reservation about the Miracle and the Resurrection.

"Then, suddenly, on Monday she came to the clear conviction that it was true. And if he could raise Lazarus then his own Resurrection was assured and we are safe. And
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she immediately gave her mind and heart to sketching the picture and decided that she would paint it as a thank offering for the assurance that came to her, and for the fact that she, herself, was rescued from death last year.

"So she said to Easton, 'I will call my painting **The Story of a God**'. This fact is recorded on Easton's tape.

"Last Monday morning she was given a new easel and a fresh bit of canvas and I have seen the pictures of her standing before the easel putting the final touches on the sketch, getting the outstretched hand of Our Lord just right for her 'Thank You, Jesus' painting of Him raising Lazarus from the dead".

Father Sherlock then reminded the congregation of the story of Lazarus' resurrection recorded in

St. John's Gospel, Chap. 11, vs. 19-26. Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus came to the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany.

After relating the story, Fr. Sherlock said:

"So here is Edna Manley coming after a brief period of questioning to accept the fact of the Resurrection and preparing to paint the picture of Our Lord raising Lazarus from the dead. Her 'Thank You, Jesus' offering for the renewal of her faith and for the conviction and assurance which came to her from Him who said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life - He that believeth on Me shall never die.

"Again I say, 'Thanks be to God.' And I earnestly invite you to share in that faith and to experience that conviction and assurance in Him who is 'The Resurrection and the Life'.

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