

Email #1 After the funeral:

Dear Praying Family,

Thank you again so very much for all your love, prayers and support.

The Funeral is over, we are mourning and healing, and the work here goes on.

The hurricane came and went. Some near the water suffered quite a bit of damage.

Damage to our home was minimal.

Many were not able to make it out, as the city closed the subway and bus service at 12 Noon on Saturday.

Many who would have come a distance were not able to come.

We estimated at least 100 who were coming could not get there, including many of our congregant's.

However, all things considered, for this terrible occasion, things went well.

About 150 people did attend the funeral. Rev. R. Craig Golden directed the service, Rev. Donald LeMaster preached the Word, Rev. Dr. Joel Grassi shared a great message, Rev. Loren Winn led the singing, as we sang 3 great Hymns of the Faith, and Rev. Winn also did the interment service. Sandy Hall played a beautiful flute duet w/ her daughter Joanna on the keyboards. Val shared, I tried to do the eulogy, and we did our best to glorify God.

There were some from the neighborhood who attended who have never been to our Church, many unsaved heard our Lord be glorified. One of Jonah's Dr's and 2 of his nurses attended, Val honored them publically. There were many from supporting Churches, many supporting Pastor's and many of our congregants came to show their love and support for us.

My mother, Helen Silverberg, was there, attending her first Church service ever, as were several ex-congregants

who have fallen away.

This was perhaps along with August 17th, the hardest day in our life, maybe it was the hardest.

But the Lord gave us the strength to get thru.

Putting his tiny casket into the ground, and placing the first shovel of dirt on it as we stood there in the steady rain

was the worst.

As with most of what we do, we had to do all to organize and arrange the funeral, from typing and printing the bulletins,

arranging the sanctuary, bringing and setting up the projector, even locating the Hymn book numbers, as well as many other tasks.

I was up at 4 AM to load up and transport all the flowers that the funeral home would not transport for us.

The Lord sent our good friends the Genungs, who helped build this Church, to come and help with many of these tasks,

as they arrived around 7:30 AM.

Dr Joel Grassi and brother Eric Evans also came early and helped move items from being in the way of parking in our Church lot,

and helped with refreshments and many other tasks.

Valerie Genung and Nate Watkins helped watch Joshy, until our wonderful new congregants Natasha and her daughter

Tatiana came. They watched Josh the rest of the day.

It was a very hectic day. Being in charge of the funeral, making sure everything went alright, was not what i wanted to do,

yet, it kept me busy, and in my usual mode. Also, all ended up working out, to the Glory of God.

So now it is over. We will visit the grave on Tuesday to assess the storm damage, try to pay the huge bills we have from the funeral cost's,

then make arrangements for purchase of his his gravestone.

There are several crisis' in the Church that must be attended to ASAP. So we will begin addressing those situations, as well as catch up

on our weekly work which is now a few days behind.

Please remember to keep us in prayer, as we mourn and heal. Our lives will never be the same, but we know we will be better ministers

for the Lord.

Thank you again for bearing this burden with us this last year. We are so grateful we did not have to go thru this alone, but

you shared our burden and now our heartache and grief with us.

Thank you.

We love you very dearly,

In Christ,

Marty and Val

Email #2 After the Funeral:

Dear Praying Family,

I incorrectly reported minimal storm damage.

The high winds that occurred last night after the hurricane past
ripped apart one of the trees I planted next to our backyard fence.

It was actually quite tall. A section of tree about 35 feet long tore up my fence,
my neighbors fence, and is sitting across his yard, although still attached to the tree.

I already picked up a chain saw, now I've got to learn how to mix the gas and oil appropriately,
Then i can get started at cutting it up. It's gonna be a lot of work. My neighbor Tony, though
quite drunk, took it very well, and is not upset with me at all.

So far, besides a lot of mess, this is all the damage I could see, Thank the Lord.

In Christ's Love,

Marty