

Our View: A life to celebrate

August 8, 2016

The sudden death of the Rev. Ken Semon of The Church of the Holy Faith is a reminder once more that life is fleeting.

Out riding his bicycle last month, Semon's front tire became wedged at a cattle guard. He was thrown from the bike, and despite wearing a helmet, was severely injured and died two days later. Yet, through his life, Semon showed his parishioners and the city of Santa Fe how all are called to service.

For the last nine years, Semon helped the historic downtown congregation thrive. Holy Faith is known for its excellent liturgy, outreach in the community and for glorious music. Semon himself worked hard to help establish the Santa Fe Interfaith Community Shelter, demonstrating through action the love Jesus calls Christians to have for the less fortunate.

His death reveals how these moments on Earth are precious, to be seized and lived to the fullest. Semon and his wife, Caroline, were preparing to move to England, a retirement to be spent near friends and family. He was going to work as an assisting priest with a friend at a nearby church. There was much left to accomplish.

For a man or woman of faith, though, this life on Earth includes the promise of the resurrection, the belief that something exists beyond our mortal coil. Semon demonstrated such faith in the way he lived his life — whether praying the Daily Office of the Benedictines or helping the homeless. A Mass of the Resurrection is scheduled 10 a.m. Wednesday at The Church of the Holy Faith. We're sure the music — through tears — will sound to the heavens.

Santa Fe is a richer place because Father Ken lived, preached and gave of himself here. To his congregation, his friends and his beloved family, the city mourns with you.