

I wrote this special piece for the memorial service of a very unusual woman. Afterwards, I gave copies to her 8 children. There wasn't an opportunity to read it to the packed audience. She had been and some of her children are friends of mine. During the ceremony, the words spoken about how she chose to live her life made me feel like I had hardly lived at all.

Mrs. O'Reilly (08/07/1924 - 03/01/2012)

When I think about Mrs. O'Reilly, I consider a probable scenario that took place in Heaven—a long time ago.

I imagine a long line of souls receiving their unique personalities and gifts. Each of these new beings is about to be sent to Earth as a newborn baby.

The Lord is thoughtfully spending brief moments with each individual. After He's moved down the line, and already passed the future Mrs. O'Reilly, I see commotion in her soul and her constant hand wringing shows it. She's obviously fidgeting in deep thought. A few sideways glances are ventured at the Lord. Quick pondering completed, she's made mind up her to interrupt the King of the Universe and now somehow she needs to get His attention.

Humbly, yet loud enough for Him to hear, with a hand waving, she says, "Excuse me God, sir. Yoo hoo!"

Silently, the Master and Creator of all things, turns His head and backtracks, coming to stand in front of the smiling yet perplexed female.

Though worried, her bright eyes shine, she says under her breath, "Oh good."

He stares with a glowing, peaceful look of grandeur and gently asks, "Yes?"

Fretting with jittery fingers, looking like she's gone too far, the future Mrs. O'Reilly knows that she must speak her mind (even though it's a brand new one).

Eyes fixed on her; He continues to stand waiting patiently.

"Lord...God, I ah...ah, have a request...I don't even know if that's allowed! I hope so? Please don't be disappointed with me."

He silently waits and a smile broadens His Lips. "Yes, My new daughter, proceed."

"Well...well, okay Lord, sir. It's the heart that you've given me. I like it and I know it's a good heart—don't get me wrong! But, but...well pardon me for saying so, but – it's just TOO SMALL. I'm going to need a much bigger heart for all the people I want to help and love and bless. Is that okay with You?"

That August 7th day in 1924, at Crete, Nebraska, the request came to life.