

## A Jewel

One year ago today, our paralegal, Nancy Kappes, passed away suddenly of a heart attack. It was a Friday, and she had worked all day at the law firm in her effervescent way. It came as a sad shock to all of us. Our managing partner asked me to prepare a eulogy for her funeral mass, which I did with a very heavy heart. For some unknown reason, the priest that day decided to cut the funeral short, and I was not allowed to give my eulogy to Nancy, so here it is for all of you.

### NANCY KAPPES WAS A PRECIOUS JEWEL.

LIKE A PRECIOUS JEWEL, she sparkled. Her wit and her intellect kept us laughing most of the time. She lit up the room whenever she walked in. Nancy and I were kindred spirits because of our love and devotion for our daughters. She talked often of Emily, Elizabeth and Claire, and I talked often of Paige.

LIKE A PRECIOUS JEWEL, she reflected whatever was good in other people. Reflect means to give back, as in giving back the light you see. Nancy saw only the good in other people, no matter who they were. She treated them all with respect, whether a homeless person or a CEO in our offices.

for my mom. My father was recently bedridden with a terminal illness. My mother was taking care of him in their home in Evansville. As my father neared death, Nancy decided to surprise us by taking a PTO day, jumping in her car and driving to Evansville, just to encourage my mom, my dad and me. Although my father had had a bad night and my mom

and I had slept very little, we had a wonderful afternoon of talking and laughing. As Nancy was leaving to make the long drive back to Indianapolis, my mom and I walked her to the door. She hugged my mom and said, "You know, since my parents are gone, I want to adopt your parents, Marti." Then, she looked up at the Heavens and said, "St. Peter, I will even pay more!" Well, we laughed so hard. As I later reflected on this, I realized that this was Nancy's way of making my mom feel so good about herself. There was probably nothing that Nancy could have said, certainly not in a more clever way, that would have been a bigger compliment.

LIKE A PRECIOUS JEWEL, she was priceless. She understood the unconditional kind of love, the priceless kind. It reminds me of these verses: "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Philipppians 2: 1-3.



Marti Starkey



Lisa Adler

LIKE A PRECIOUS JEWEL, she refracted the light in other people. Refract means to bend the light to alter it. Nancy had a way of taking whatever was special about a person and making them feel so good about themselves. Although we all have lots of stories about Nancy, I want to tell you one about how she refracted the light

I think we first became kindred spirits because of our love for our daughters – we were crazy about them. But in that relationship, I realized that Nancy really understood unconditional love. Nancy would have been the first to say that she did not live a life like Mother Teresa, but I want to read some words of Mother Teresa that always remind me of Nancy:

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered.  
FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

BE KIND ANYWAY.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

BE HONEST ANYWAY.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

BE HAPPY ANYWAY.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.  
IT NEVER WAS BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY."

YES, NANCY WAS A PRECIOUS JEWEL, and now, she has a crown of jewels.

By: Marti Starkey

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