

I am standing upon the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the ocean. She is
an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until
at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the
sea and sky come to mingle with each other.
Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"
"Gone where?"
Gone from my sight. That is all.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.
And just at the moment when someone at my side says:
"There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her
coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout:
"Here she comes!"
And that is dying.

Henry Van Dyke

That's why our heart is with them now, our loved ones who
have taken leave of us. There is no substitute for them; there
are no others who can fill the vacancy when one of those whom
we really love suddenly and unexpectedly depart and are with
us no longer.

In true love no one can replace another, for true love loves the
other person in that depth where they are uniquely and
irreplaceably themselves. And thus, as death has trodden
roughly through our lives, every one of the departed has taken
a piece of our hearts with them, and often enough— our whole
heart.

Karl Rahner

*Lord, Your Son taught us that life is eternal and that love
cannot die. Death is only a horizon, only the limit of our sight
Open our eyes to see more clearly, draw us closer to you that
we may know we are nearer to our loved ones now with you.
You have told us that you are preparing a place for us, prepare
us also for that happy place, where you are and where we all
will be.*