

## **MANY ROOMS**

There are many rooms in my Father's House

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My Dad was a hardworking man who received little school education.

He used to say that he did make it to high school because it was on a hill

He could use his fists and his sharp northern Irish wit. Never letting the truth get in the way of a  
good story

As I said at his funeral, he smelt more often of whisky than he did of sanctity.

All this said

And as different as he was

There are many rooms in my Father's house

There is certainly a place for my Dad.

There is a priest in this Diocese that I trained with. An age mate of mine.

We have never really had the same theological outlook on life

Our priorities are quite different

But I once saw him care for a priest dying of AIDS

He fed this man

Even washed this man

While others abandoned him in fear

We as priests are very different

There are many rooms in my Father's house

I suspect the place that this particular priest finds in eternity will be in a better room than mine.

Mahatma Ghandi BAPU

The founder of the modern Indian nation

When was asked what he would do if he found himself at the pearly gates discovering a Christian  
God

He replied "I would smile and walk straight in"

Martin Luther King the Baptist minister and disciple of Ghandi

Could see the Promised Land before he was eventually martyred

Even the Prophet peace be upon him  
Talked of God the merciful  
God the compassionate  
The founder of a faith that gives millions identity and dignity  
Each all very different  
Thus it is not so strange that there are many rooms in my Father's house

The way my Father lived was the best way he could  
The truth my fellow priest expressed in his kindness converted me to his sanctity  
The life of the Prophet peace be upon him, Martin Luther King who was not perfect, And Mahatma  
Ghandi another martyr are each inspirational.

The Roman Catholic faith is not exclusive  
Because there are many rooms in my Father's house  
Besides  
Who are we to judge?