

VIGIL REFLECTION

22 August 2024

Margaret Mc Laughlin, pbvm
6 February 1937 – 17 August 2024

Betty Rae Lee, pbvm
Province Leader
Presentation Sisters (NL)

Welcome everyone as we gather to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of our Sister Margaret McLaughlin.

*What do we celebrate on this joyfilled day?
Life's what we celebrate on this joyfilled day.
Life so fragile, life so free
Live that's lived abundantly
And life's what we celebrate on this joyfilled day.*

The Gathering Hymn for Margie's celebration of her 50th Jubilee in 2011 was Miriam Martin's Joyfilled Day and Margie's life epitomized "*Life so fragile, life so free*" as she lived both fragility and freedom throughout her lifetime.

Margie joined our community in 1958, made first profession on 15 July 1961, receiving the name, Sister Lawrence Marie, in honor of her Dad, and made final commitment to the vowed life on 15 July 1966.

Jubilees are special celebrations. When Margie celebrated her 25th in Windsor in 1986, her friend, Grace Vokey, penned a song in her honor. I'll read a couple of stanzas.

*"You answered the call and confirmed it with "yes",
You are a true servant who measured the test.
This time in your life marks great jubilation.
Thank you, Sister Margaret McLaughlin, for your dedication...*

And when she celebrated her 50th Jubilee with her entrance group, Paula Delahunty, Ruth O'Reilly and Kay Rex, their service was set in the context of care for the gifts of all creation, the desire to protect our environment and preserve the rights of every species, prayer for peace and harmony in a troubled world and with a special acknowledgement of the wisdom of all who have gone before us in our families and community. The Sisters renewed their vows pledging to direct their

potential to love, their instinct to possess and their desire for power for the spread of God's kingdom.

Psalm 89 from that prayer service, in the words of The Message by Eugene Peterson:

*"Your love, O God, is my song and I'll sing it.
I'm forever telling everyone how faithful you are.
I'll never quit telling the story of your love –
how you built the cosmos and everything in it.
Your love has been my life's' foundation.
Your fidelity has been the roof over my world."*

And the Gospel reading from John 13:33-35 is reminiscent of Nano's dying words:

*"Let me give you a new command:
Love one another.
In the same way I loved you,
you love one another.
This is how everyone will know you are my disciples
- when they see the love you have for each other."*

Margaret's ministry as teacher, parish worker and volunteer took her to Antigua, Badger, Benoit's Cove, Bishop Falls, Brent' Cove, Cape St. George, Ferryland, Grand Falls, Harbour Breton, Renew's, Stephenville, St. John's, St. Paul's, Trepassey and Windsor. Join the Convent and see Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond.

Again, the words of Grace Vokey:

*As teacher of children you fulfill a great task
With much to consider and so much to ask
There's work to be finished and work that is new
There's joy in the making in all that you do."*

Perhaps the characteristic most of us remember about Margie was her brilliant repartee. Once when Margaret was carrying two briefcases at MUN, her professor met her and said, "Sister Margaret, you must be Einstein." Margaret answered, "No, he's my son." And when Father Barbour's dog chewed up Margaret's Psychology book, Margaret proclaimed, "Bruno knows more psychology than I do." When serving as pastoral minister in St. Paul's on the Northern Peninsula and having officiated at the wedding of Charlie White and his bride, Margie proudly introduced the couple to the assembly with the words, "I am thrilled to introduce to you our newly wedded

couple, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Brown.” There was some confusion as to if her birthdate was 6 or 7 February. When asked when her birthday was, Margaret always responded, “I’m a half Valentine but a real sweetheart.”

So, Margaret, as we celebrate the sorrow and the joy of your life among us, we rejoice that you are now reunited with you loved ones *“in that land where there is no more pain for the former things have passed away.”* Rev. 21:4

Rest well in that place of no more pain, dear Margaret.