

A "Celebration of Life" Mass for
Elsa Ballesteros

 May 16, 2016



June 5, 1944 - December 15, 2015

In Loving Memory, from all of us!

A loved one is a treasure of the heart, and to lose a loved one is like losing a piece of yourself. But the love that this person brought you did not leave, for the essence of the soul lingers. It cannot escape your heart, for it has been there forever.

Cling to the memories and let them find their way to heal you. The love and laughter, the joy in the togetherness you shared, will make you strong. You'll come to realize that your time together, no matter how long, was meant to be, and that you were blessed to have such a precious gift of love in your life.

Keep your heart beating with the loving memories, and trust in your faith to guide you through. Know that, though life moves on, the beauty of love stays behind to surround and embrace you. Your loved one has left you that ... to hold in your heart forever.

- Debbie Burton-Peddle



Message from Fr. Robert Foliot, SJ

Fr. Bert was Our Lady of Lourdes Pastor when the Sundaze was serving at the 7:00 pm Mass. We also served in Music Ministry, briefly during the 'Shepherdships' of Fr. Walsh and Fr. Johnson.



To Lee Quesada:

I would have loved to have been with you, Lee. It is just a conflict in scheduling. The Sundaze helped the parish at a crucial time in its history. Thank you for all you did.

Liturgical music enhances the celebration. It takes the Word of God and expresses it in a way that opens people's hearts to receive and respond. The Sundaze faithfully every week helped in nourishing all the people who left their apartments to come over to the Church on Sunday evenings to listen to God and to receive from God what they needed to begin another week.

Many of these people were real newcomers to Canada at the time. Sundaze, with its experience in Canada, showed them how to follow Jesus in a new land, which was now their new home. God bless all of you.

- Fr. Foliot



“From the Eucharist, this sacrament of love, flows every authentic journey of Faith, of Communion, and of Witness”. - Pope Francis

ENTRANCE HYMN

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Chorus

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it Jesus if you please
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be dear Lord let it be

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk let me walk close to Thee ... **Chorus**

Through this world of toil and snares
If I falter Lord who cares
Who with me my burden shares
None but Thee dear Lord none but Thee ... **Chorus**

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more
Guide me gently safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore to Thy shore ... **Chorus**



A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION (21:10-14, 22-23)

In the spirit, the angel carried me away to a great high mountain and showed me the holy city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven

from God. It has the glory of God and radiance like a rare jewel, like jasper, like real crystal. It has great high wall with twelve gates and at the gates are twelve Angels and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb. I saw no temple on the city for its temple is the Lord God, the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its Light, and its Lamp is its Lamb.

THE WORD OF THE LORD. Thanks be to God!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 145)

R: I will bless Your name forever, my King and my God

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all and His compassion is over all, that He has made. **R**

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord, and all Your faithful shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your Kingdom, and tell of Your power. **R**

To make known to human beings Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of Your kingdom, and Your dominion endured throughout all generations. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia: Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (John 14:23-29)

Jesus said to His disciples: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him, and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

“Peace I leave with you: my peace I give to you, I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

“You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe”.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



OFFERTORY SONG

Lord Teach Us To Pray

Chorus

Lord teach us to pray
It's been a long and cold December kind of day
With our hearts and hands all busy
With our private little wars
We stand and watch each other now
From separate shores, we lose the way

I need to know today the way things should be in my head
I need to know for once now the things that should be
I've got to learn to walk around as if I were not dead
I've got to find a way to learn to live ... **Chorus**

I still get so distracted by the color of my skin
I still get so upset now when I find that I don't win
I meet so many strangers; I'm so slow to take them in
I've got to find a way to really live ... **Chorus**

I stand so smug and sure before the people I've outguessed
To let them all be who they are I still see as a test
And when it all comes down to “must”, I'm sure my way is best
I've got to find what "room" means in my heart ... **Chorus**

COMMUNION SONG

It Is No Secret What God Can Do

The chimes of time ring out the news
Another day is through
Someone slipped and fell
Was that someone you

You may have longed for added strength
Your courage to renew
Do not be disheartened
For I have news for you

Chorus

It is no secret what God can do
What He's done for others He'll do for you
With arms wide open He'll pardon you
It is no secret what God can do

There is no night for in His light you never walk alone
Always feel at home wherever you may go
There is no power can conquer you while God is on your side
Take Him at His promise don't run away and hide ... **Chorus**

RECESSIONAL SONG

Less Of Me

Let me be a little kinder let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me let me praise a little more
Let me be when I am weary just a little bit more cheery
Think a little more of others and a little less of me

Let me be a little braver when temptation bids me waver
Let me strive a little harder to be all that I should be
Let me be a little meeker with the brother that is weaker
Let me think more of my neighbor and a little less of me

Let me be when I am weary just a little bit more cheery
Let me serve a little better those that I am strivin' for
Let me be a little meeker with the brother that is weaker
Think a little more of others and a little less of me



It was just five months ago when a drastic turning point in my life happened when God finally called my dear wife Elsa home to be with Him and granted her, her eternal rest from the illness that plagued her, yet endured, for the last 19 years of her life. Although her cancer had always presented the real threat with her mortality, she was still temporarily allowed to overcome this disease and lived a very meaningful life but her fight to survive only prolonged the inevitable consequence. I hold on with the faith that Elsa is deservedly enjoying God's promise of eternal happiness, free from the pain and suffering she went through while here on earth. She touched many lives with her goodness, purity, sincerity, and unselfish love for others which came so naturally for her to impart. As remembrance and was the soloist in the choir "Sundaze" from the early 70's, all songs tonight were specifically chosen when Elsa sang them here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish during the 7:00 pm Sunday masses.

I thank everyone here tonight for your love, affection, and respect for her, for honouring her wonderful life, and to everyone who gave your love back to Elsa and are grateful for her existence. Thank you to all the people who were involved and organized this memorial mass for her and made this heartwarming event possible. Thanks to Elsa's close friends and the choir group for extending your welcome and friendship to me over the years. We both are truly grateful!

Today would have been our 29th wedding anniversary and I feel so fortunate and privileged that I was even allowed to share my life with her, for the wonderful time we had together, to love and to care, and to be the proud husband of such a beautiful and wonderful woman that I have ever known. Time does fly when you're having fun, and our marriage was that - it was fun, memorable, and irreplaceable. We loved, admired, respected, trusted, and inspired each other. Her spirit, essence, and her memory will be cherished and will forever stay with me.

With all my love!

- Marc



Special thanks to the following who made this memorial possible: Lee Quesada, Celia Boggs, Georgia Gaceta, Rey and Gigi Yu, Fr. John Sullivan for officiating the mass, for the music provided by members of the choir, and for the speakers who shared your sentiments.

To everyone who provided food and refreshments, and to all who prepared the church and reception, we thank you so much for your generosity and kindness.

