



Observing the 10th Anniversary
of the death of
Sister Barbara Ford

May 5, 2011

Opening: Reflective music

Welcome: Sr. Margaret O'Brien

Reader 1 The principal end for which God has called and assembled the Sisters of Charity is to honor Jesus Christ our Lord, the source and model of all charity, by rendering Him every temporal and spiritual service in the person of the poor...
(*Rule of the Sisters of Charity*)

Reader 2 What then is the spirit of the Sisters of Charity? It is the love of our Lord Jesus Christ; it is to love our Lord steadfastly and tenderly, and not only tenderly but effectively, because you serve the poor in body and soul... The spirit of the community is to love our Lord and serve Him in a spirit of simplicity and humility.
(*Conference of Vincent de Paul, February 9, 1653*)

Reader 3 Sisters of Charity! Your admirable name should incite you to do full justice to your holy vocation. My sisters, let us love Him, let us be ever ready to do His holy will. He is our Father. When we are in our dear eternity we shall know the value of suffering here below.
(*Elizabeth Ann Seton*)

Let us pray

Side 1 As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O Beloved. /
My soul thirsts for the beloved, for the Living Water. / When may I come and behold your face? /
Tears have been my only nourishment day and night, / while friends ask, "Where is the Beloved of your heart?"

All sing response: *Come to the water, flowing clear, font where new life abounds. Live by the spirit, do not fear, God is here, love surrounds.*
(*Lori True, "Come to the Water," A Place at the Table, ©GIA*)

Side 2 All this I remember, as I pour out my soul: /how I knew your Presence within me as I went among the throng, /proceeding to the House of Prayer; /with loud voice we gave you praise and acclamation, /a multitude, proclaiming gratitude and joy...
Response

Side 1 My soul is cast down within me,/ therefore I remember you from my mother's womb to my maturity, /through all the days of my life./ Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your waterfalls;/ all your waves and your billows have washed over me.
Response

Side 2 I say to the Beloved, the Blessed One,/" Why have you forgotten me? /Why go I mourning because of the oppression of fear? /as with a deadly wound in my body//my fears rise up to taunt me, /saying over and over, "Where is the beloved?"
Response

Side 1 Why are you cast down, O my soul, / and why are you disquieted within me? /My hope is in the Beloved, my strength and my joy./ O my soul, open the door to Love!
(*Psalms 42, Nan Merrill, Psalms for Praying*)
Response

Gospel John 7:37—39

On the last day of the festival— the great day— Jesus stood and cried out: “If any are thirsty, let them come to me! Let those come and drink who believe in me!” As the Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow out from within the believer’s heart. This Jesus said concerning the Spirit which those who believed in him were going to receive.

Word of God.

Reflection: Sr. Mary McCormick

Intercessions For what are **we** thirsting?

Response: ***Loving God, hear our prayer***

Recommitment ceremony

Here before us are the waters of our reality, the reality of who we are, with all our gifts, limitations, and deep desires. Bobbie lived and died knowing the reality of her own reliance on God, and her deep desire to belong to the poor: of the south Bronx, Harbour Island, Peru, Guatemala. On this 10th anniversary of Bobbie’s death, we want to recommit ourselves to the ideals which became a part of the legacy that she, all unknowing, left to us, her community.

In this paschal season of hope and renewal, let us recommit to the Baptismal call that initiated us into the mystery of Christ’s life, death and resurrection.

Our response: ***May we become a mighty flood of justice, a torrent of doing good.***

In this time of enfleshing the words of our Assembly 2011 Direction Statement, let us recommit to the vision we have been given for this time, allowing it to sustain us until its depths have been plumbed, its power utilized to the full.

Response

At this time when violence and destruction continue unabated in every corner of our earth, let us recommit to justice and right relations with each other, our Church and our world.

Response

(Ceremony of sprinkling)

As the waters are sprinkled over us, let us together sing the great Easter hope: Dona Nobis Pacem.

Action

In the basket being passed around are some papers containing practical ways we can become more mindful of the precious gift of water many of us take so much for granted. To honor the memory of Bobbie and the work she did to bring water to the people of Quiche, let us commit to doing what our paper suggests!

We will close with a Kiss of Peace.