



Homily for Sister Regina Hudson
Entered eternal life on July 11, 2019

1 Corinthians 13, 1-13

The three readings for today's Mass of the Resurrection were valued by Regina. There is a message about her and a call to each of us in them.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians on love, is a beautiful and powerful reminder of the universal call to be loving which is embedded in the Gospel.

Yes, love is patient, kind and never fails. It's the indispensable quality that pulls us closer to the Heart of the Divine and closer to one another.

Regina loved well and long in her 88 years of life and her 62 years as a Sister of Charity. She showed us the truth that, love is the powerful and tangible anchor, through which we grow and are challenged. She lived and ministered in a quiet, even and steady way. Her grounded way of living; never seemed to leave her, even amid the hurry and over-activity of the day. Regina always found ways of relating to the hundreds of people who passed through the doors of Seton Center each week. They often came burdened with needs and she met each one exactly where they were. Regina did the same with family and friends

Community is also about love. The 5 of us who shared our lives with Regina for more than 50 years experienced the depth of what true community is and can be. We have been blessed by that reality.

Love, as we all know, is not about taking it is about giving.

Psalm 23

Then in today's responsorial we heard Psalm 23 which is a very personal one. There is no reference to "we" or "us" or "they", but only "my", "me", "I". It speaks of a personal experience of God. It's a balm for us all, in that it covers all of life. It speaks with simple beauty of green pastures and still waters, as well as dark valleys and trials.

Regina was a "go to" person when anything significant was really needed through prayer. She would just say "I've asked Jesus about it". She always seemed to be speaking directly to a friend.

Matthew 5, 1-12

Finally, the Gospel reading from the Sermon on the Mount is a wonderful way to reflect on Regina's life. The Beatitudes describe as blessed, those simple followers of God, who faithfully and patiently wait, thirst and hunger for all that is good under the heavens. These last years were a long waiting. She lived them, as she had lived all of her life with a gracious acceptance.

In the 1980s a French Jewish biblical scholar named Andre Chouraqui produced a translation of the Bible the tried to be as close and possible to the original Aramaic that Jesus actually spoke. He suggested that the word "blessed" used in Matthew's Gospel had a meaning much closer to get up and walk on.

Read in this sense, the Beatitudes have a slightly different nuance.

Walk on you who are poor in spirit and you will reach the Reign of God. Walk on you who hunger and thirst for justice and you will be satisfied. Walk on you who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness and you will have a place in the Home of God. Walk on you who are peacemakers and you will truly be children of God.

Regina lived with deep faith in these promises. They have now been given to her in full measure. Be in peace and joy, dear Regina, for you are with your God, who loves you so.

Sister Cecilia McManus, SC

Eulogy for Sister Regina Hudson, SC

What can we say of Regina~ or BA~ or Betty Ann, as she was affectionately known to her family~ to capture a glimpse of a long, loving and full life? She loved her God, her family, her community her friends and us. We (Eileen, Ceil, Dianne and I) shared life with her nearly 50 years. Her needing to come to the Villa left us and her family grieving.

Sister Regina was a true Sister of Charity. She was devoted to her family and loved spending time with them. Sister Regina was a nurse, an excellent administrator and a true friend. Living in genuine community, we shared joy, sorrow, grief and much laughter...many happy times and the blessed ordinariness of everyday supper. We loved her laughter, love of music, the ocean and the beach, as well as her always glass half empty approach to all things.

Sister Regina attended Immaculate Conception Grammar School and High School, where she met life long friends. As the "baby" of her family, she stayed home after high school to help care for her mother who was suffering from MS. After her mother's death she fulfilled her dream and attended St. Michael's Hospital School of Nursing. After graduating she began her nursing journey teaching nursing at St. Vincent's School of Nursing where she met her loyal friend Eileen.

Sister Regina entered the Sisters of Charity in 1956. We often explained her older entrance age as "a delayed vocation".

Nursing was her ministry~ beginning at the Villa in her novitiate days. She shared many happy memories of St. Elizabeth's Hospital and challenging memories of St. Mary's Hospital OR along with traveling stories to St. Vincent's Hospital in NYC. Administration was her gift ~ evident as the Director of Nursing at St. Mary's, Passaic and East Orange General and Administrator of Bridgeton Community Health Center. After the unique experience of Delmarva Rural Ministries and the gift of knowing farmworker families and finally Seton Center where collaboration and team work thrived showed her capable leadership.

Sister Regina met these last four years with acceptance, patience, dignity and grace. We have missed her every day and will miss her still. We pray, dearest friend, you will rest in peace and find your words again.

Sister Ellen Farrell, SC