

Sr. Mary Ann giving award to deserving students.



Sr. Mary Ann with her brother Joe when he came to Cape Coast to visit her



**SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME
PROVINCE OF AFRICA**

**Celebrating the life of a Pioneer
(Sr. Mary Ann Matachinskas)**



*Precious and blessed is the death
of the faithful before God...
for they die in union with their dear Jesus,
in the grace of God, in peace. (MT 11)*

LEADER: May I invite everyone to silence and be aware of the presence of God in us and around us. (PAUSE)

We have gathered here today because our lives have been greatly impacted by Sr. Mary Ann Matachinskas, a woman who understood and lived what it means to be Christ for others. A courageous woman who dared to leave her own home, country and culture to embrace a new one at an early age of life and as a religious on another continent (Africa, Ghana) in 1974. Sister served as a School Sister Of Notre Dame for 59 years 49 years of which was in Ghana -we thank God for the gift and life of Sr. Mary Ann. God gave her to us and in God's own time has called her back to himself. May all our SSND ancestors come, take her home.

OPENING PRAYER:

Triune God, in your son Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, our hope of resurrection begins. The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality. Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. May our beloved Sr. Mary Ann and all our departed brothers and sisters share in his resurrection.

Gracious Spirit, creator of life, carrier of hope, make your presence known among us. Enable us to be brave in our remembering, honest in our sorrow, and open in love and compassion to each other. Help us to seek not so much answers to our questions, but, rather, the patience to mourn and grieve. Enable us to remember with joy the lives of those we have loved. Send us your peace. Amen

SONG: Yahweh (Weston Priory) or Any appropriate song

Refrain:

Yahweh is the God of my salvation:

I trust in him and have no fear.

I sing of the joy which his love gives to me,

and I draw deeply from the springs of his great kindness.

Farewell Blessing for Sr. Mary Ann (Gaelic Blessing)

Deep peace of the running wave to you;

Deep peace of the flowing air to you;

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;

Deep peace of the shining stars to you;

Deep peace of the gentle night to you

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you;

Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you.

May all our ancestors welcome and journey with you to God, whom you have loved and served all your life.

SALVE REGINA:

Leader: Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord.

All: And let your perpetual light shine upon her.

Leader: May she rest in peace.

All: Amen

Leader: May the soul of Sr. Mary Ann and the souls of all our departed brothers and sisters, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

All: Amen.

God created us for heaven.

For this Jesus became human and died on the cross;

for this he has sanctified us through the holy spirit.

(MT. 11)

You showed me that your home was within me
That living in me was your joy
I wept still more tears at the thought of you

And I in you,
A dwelling place I am, I kept saying.
A home for the God of my life.
My soul has turned into heaven.
I am little and great all in one.

And then from within me, your voice came
Giving me a name that was new
Little-Great-One, you called out, Come closer
Little-Great-One, Beloved, Come home

Come home to the self I keep loving
Come home to the truth that you are
Little-Great-One, you called out, Come closer
Little-Great-One, you kept saying, Come home.

You came with your all to my nothing.
With such reverence you called out my name.
You lifted me back into my poverty
The littleness I was trying to escape.
Embracing that poverty, I felt wealthy
I was free at least to be great.

G L O R Y

PRAYER:

Gracious God, your love for your children is eternal. Neither life nor death can separate those who trust in you. The death of our sister recalls our human condition and brevity of our lives on earth. But for those who believe in your love, death is not the end nor does it destroy the bonds that you forgive in our lives. Forgive the sins of all who sleep in your peace.

Unite us to yourself, that together with your servant, Sr. Mary Ann, we may rejoice in your light and peace; through Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for us. Amen.

1. Open our eyes to the wonder of this moment,
the beginning of another day. Refrain:
2. Be with us, Lord, as we break through with each other
to find the truth and beauty of each friend. Refrain:
3. When evening comes and our day of toil is over
give us rest, O Lord, in the joy of many friends. Refrain:
4. Take us beyond the vision of this day
to the deep and wide ways of your infinite love and life. Refrain:

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PSALM 23

Antiphon: "We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love toward ourselves. God is love, and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him" (1 Jn 4:16).

My Shepherd, Lord you give to me my every want and need. In green pastures, your waters flow into my soul with peace. Good Shepherd, Lord in you I rest, forever blessed indeed!

You guide me by true paths of virtue to exalt your name. Though passing through the shadowed valley I will fear no harm. For you are with me, Shepherd God; Your staff and rod, I claim!

You lay before me your great feast; you greet me with embrace and love. You anoint my head and bless my heart with precious oils of love. You fill my cup, you fill my soul with overflowing grace and peace!

With goodness you have favored me; you care eternally. Your hand of kindness touches me and comfort me always. My Shepherd, Lord, together with all your angels, saints, living beings and all of creation, I shall adore You through eternity.

Glory

READING: You Are Sent C# 47

PAUSE

READING OF A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF SR. MARY ANN

SHARING OF MEMORIES (pause after each sharing)

PRAYER:

We are in the presence of God
in our need and in our sorrow.
We are in the presence of God
in thankfulness for the life we knew and shared.
We are in the presence of God
seeking hope and courage for the future
We are in the presence of God
who has promised to be with us always, till the end of time

INTERCESSIONS:

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for his people. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord, we join our prayers to his:

Response: Lord in your merciful love hear and answer our prayer

In baptism Sr. Mary Ann received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead her over the waters of death. R

Our Sister was nourished at the table of the Savior. Welcome her into the halls of the heavenly banquet. R

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the Kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. R

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace. R

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to those whose faith is known to you alone. R

The family and friends of Sr. Mary Ann seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. R

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our dear Sister Mary Ann. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming. R

We may add our own intentions

Leader: We now pray to the Blessed Mother, advocate and comforter. Remembering that Sr. Mary Ann called upon Mary to be with her "now and at the hour of her death."

Hail Mary. . .

MAGNIFICAT: A Magnificat for Coming Home (Macrina Wiederkehr)

ANTIPHON: We have no lasting dwelling here, our true homeland is heaven (MT 11)

O Most Creative One, every bringing me to new life
O Most Powerful one, empowering me for life's journey
O Indwelling One, calling me to my Center
O Beloved One, loving me as I am.

Have you noticed that I'm coming home?
I have seen you, the All-Seeing One who sees me
I can remain away from home no longer
I just want to be there in you who are in me
for I have heard your call,
Make your home in Me
I can stay away from home no longer.

My soul proclaims the wonder of your friendship
My spirit is weeping within me for joy.
My heart spills out tears with delight
They mix with my joy and I tremble
feeling totally claimed by your love