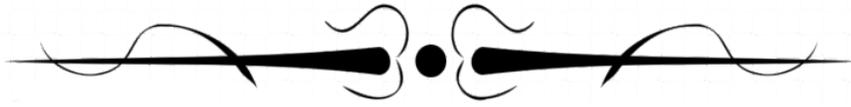


Florence Schubert



September 5, 1923 - June 26, 2021

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

One could preach about Florence Schubert’s life simply by sharing one glorious passage of holy scripture after another.



Our sacred texts guided her life, and now they describe her victory. Her achievements are many. But only God knows the hardships she overcame to accomplish her life purposes.

About two years ago she asked me to help her prepare her obituary. She gathered the documents and records needed. All the facts were laid out.

A telling detail she included, was a time when she was asked to consider a call to professional service in the church. In the process of discernment she realized that she had so many religious questions. And if she did not know the answers, how could she serve others well - who, like her, were also questioning? How could she be a source of answers when her questions went so deep?

She stayed with the questions. And Florence took questioning as a way of life. “I always had questions,” she said. As a result of this and her courage, she described her life as an adventure.

Indeed after she heard me give sermons at Vespers in Charter House, she would invariably question me. And they were not easy questions. She challenged me, and I’m sure she challenged her students at Luther college, and wherever she went as a teacher, mentor and friend.

When she told me about singing in the choir at Riverside Church in New York City, and I thought of the preachers she must have heard there, I had a better idea of why she questioned me! There, and from childhood, she worshiped the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Her home was a place of beauty and peace. There, no matter how difficult her condition, how much pain she had, or loss she suffered, there was peace that was contagious as a gift from Christ himself. I was always happy visiting her. Her faith always encouraged me. She loved the pastoral care she received with Pastor Vern and all your visits

Another telling fact was her lifelong love for Earl Hilke. She, as a young woman like so many, was bereft of the love of her life because he gave the ultimate gift of his life in

wartime. This happened after they were promised to each other. They were an engaged couple.

He paid the ultimate price; her love was ultimate as well. She loved him for all of her life. We know that, from her own words in her last days. Those words, were between the two of them. Her love endured. And we believe that now, Florence gets to be the bride in heaven, that together they will sit down in festal array at the marriage feast that has no end.

Yes, how beautiful is our faith! Is it not wonderful beyond compare? To be with Florence was to be happy because her faith and assurance made her happy deep within. We shared that happiness and completeness when having fellowship with her.

We believe in the Communion of the saints, we say in the Creed. So it is for us to continue that faith and fellowship. Don't take it lightly. My brothers and sisters in Christ, Draw near to each other in sincere love.

Florence's baptismal verse which she recorded to me, was "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and do not hinder them, for of such as these is the kingdom of heaven." (Mark 20:14, Luke 18:16, Matthew 19:14). And some of you/us became her own children. What a gift we share, to have mothers and grandmothers in the faith. Today I grieve with you as for my own mother.

Her confirmation verse was Psalm 19:14. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." She spoke thoughtfully.

Yes, the verses and sacred texts we learn and love are woven into our lives. We can choose to live by them. To live with forgiveness of the wrongs done to us, with generous love for all who struggle. We can choose to go on and onward until by God's grace, faith and hope prevail!

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Is this easy? With her, we know that for the sake of the joy that was set before him, Christ endured the cross, despising its shame, and being made complete is set at the right hand of God. We know that's how it works for a believer in Jesus. Is it easy? No, it is hard, sometimes very hard. But at times like this, as we remember her, we can clearly see why we continue on our journey of faith, and how.

In Florence Schubert we see a life that is whole and beautiful- and we know how and why.

With her let us affirm:

¹⁰ "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

Today I call you to commit yourselves to the same great adventure she has completed:
Together with her we also say,

¹² ... “I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”

Hear the tenderness in these words:

¹³ “Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Today I rejoice with you because in her God’s work is complete. She rests in peace. She enjoys the wedding banquet. Today God’s promise has come true:

²¹ “God will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory.”

Thanks be to God! Amen.

August 1, 2021