

To Marie -

All of the kind expressions and acts of you people here and many who have been unable to attend these services have been more deeply appreciated than these words can express We have been given food, moneys words of encouragement endless offers of assistance, flowers, favors, friendship--and much more.

You have been generous beyond imagination. We are grateful.

But more important I think; You did not wait until now to show our concern, you went out of your way to express your love before Marie died and to her personally, I am sure God has rich, compensating blessings for you.

Many have expressed regret that they did not visit Marie in the hospital this last time Don't feel badly. She didn't want her pain to hurt you.

Marie was (and is) something different--and something very special--to everyone who knew her. But think about it--underlying her association with each of us was her flowing, engulfing friendliness. Everyone who knew her was a fast friend. There were many reasons. She listened more than she talked. She loved more than she hated -- in fact, I know of no one she even disliked. If she hurt anyone's feelings or disagreed with anyone she did it in love and not anger. She laughed much, cried seldom and complained never. Her cheerful disposition has been a constant blessing.

A word to our children: I assure you as your father and without shame that all five of you were conceived in love, born in love and reared in love. Honor thy mother through living as she taught, by doing what you know full well she would have you do. Take care of your church work, study hard, learn well, mind your consciences and do enjoy life to its fullest--as your mother did.

The rest of us can learn much from Marie's life too. She was never so busy she was discourteous. She argued in tolerance and admonished with love To top it off her sparkling blue-blue eyes, quick smile, warm chuckle and unmiddied humor made her a constant pleasure.

The family feels good about the doctors, nurses and others who cared for Marie. They were kind, gentle, mindful of her. We know they did all in their power to help. We are grateful to them. We are grateful too for the prayers from lips of all faiths. I am sure those prayers were answered because eventually we all reached the point where we forgot ourselves and asked God only that Marie's welfare be considered. We are grateful and touched by those prayers.

In conclusion, just a word to Marie: We love you. You are sorely missed by all of us. Yet we are comforted by the assurance that our temporary loss is Paradise's pain and wherever you are that place is warmer, friendlier, happier for your being there. God bless you always- thanks for everything- and goodbye,

Grant