

In Memory of Sr. Mary Martin Jennings

~Excerpts of the Homily from the
funeral Mass—by Fr. Norman Boyd, SA ~



Birth: September 12, 1919 — Death: May 4, 2012
Entered our Congregation: September 8, 1940
First Profession: June 12, 1942 — Final Vows: August 23, 1947

“Last Friday in the Office of Readings, we had Psalm 78. Whenever we have this Psalm in the Office, I always seem to look at it as what God has provided for our Community here at Graymoor; I see so much of our own Community mirrored in the Psalm:

‘Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. The things we have heard and understood, the things our fathers and mothers told us, the glories of the Lord and his might and the marvelous deeds he has done.

*Before us God has done marvelous things,
he divided the sea and led them through and made the waters stand up like a wall.*

By day he led them with a cloud: by night, with a light of fire.

*He split the rocks in the desert. He gave them plentiful drink as from the deep.
He made streams flow out from the rock and made waters run down like rivers.*

He opened the gates of heaven, and mere human beings ate the bread of angels.

*He sent them abundance of food. He rained food on them like dust,
winged fowl like the sands of the sea.*

So they ate and had their fill; for he gave them all they craved.

His people he led forth like sheep and guided them like a herd in the desert.

He led them on secure and unafraid.

He brought them to his holy land, to the mountain his right hand had won.’



“This, too, is our history - the Friars and Sisters of the Atonement! Our history is filled to overflowing with God’s bounteous blessings and graces, His signs and wonders, His magnificent care, His unmistakable guidance and love. God knows, however, that eventually, even all this will never satisfy our deepest longing: to be with Him, in His very presence! God has placed in our souls a seed of *“not-enoughness,”* a seed of glory, a longing for more, a promise of something eternal, a *“you-will-be-with-me”*ness, a hunger for the everlasting, the imperishable, the never-ending.

“And this is what we are witnessing today: Sr. Mary Martin has been brought home! ... He led her on secure and unafraid. And He brought her to His holy land, to the mountain His right hand had won,” just as He had promised long ago: “I will come back and take you with me.” Yes, she heard His call: “Listen! My beloved! Behold, He is coming, climbing on the mountains, leaping on the hills! ... My beloved responded and said to me, ‘Arise, my beautiful one, and come along. For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone ... Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along.’” (Song of Solomon 2:8-13)