

In Memory of Sr. Mary Robert Ashley, SA

~ Excerpts from the Homily of Fr. Tom Orians, SA ~
Funeral Mass of JULY 25, 2012 - Wednesday

“Life is a funny thing. One moment we are here and the next, we are gone. Some people live to a ripe-old age of 90, like Sr. Mary Robert, and some people die when they are very young. Life is full of questions, and perhaps the biggest question of all, ‘Dear God, what’s the meaning of life?’ The answer to that question can really only be answered by God. We read in the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans, “None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for one’s self. For if we live, it is for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord.” Our life is really something that is only known by God.



“Pope Benedict XVI has said: ‘Today, as in all ages, there is no lack of generous souls ready to give up everyone and everything to embrace Christ and His Gospel - consecrating their existence to His service ... characterized by enthusiasm, generosity and joy.’ Sr. Mary Robert was one of these generous souls - she had given to the Lord a service “characterized by enthusiasm and generosity” and found her *Joy in God* as we, in the Society of the Atonement, know. Today, we commend her soul to the Lord, confident that He will receive her into Eternal Life.

“Nobody knows all the different facets of Sr. Mary Robert’s life and all the different people that she came into contact with. There are many from her hometown in Potsdam to Vancouver, to Washington, DC and New York City - and of course, even here in Garrison As Sisters and Friars, we believe Jesus died on the cross and purchased for us a share in the fullness of life through the blood of the Atonement.

This is the paradox of the cross and the resurrection Sr. Mary Robert experienced that cross in her own life yet she remained faithful through numerous assignments and ministries.

★ Birth: April 19, 1922 ★
Entered our Congregation: September 7, 1945
First Profession: June 5, 1947
Final Vows: June 28, 1952
Death: July 20, 2012

“Most of us here ... grew up on the Baltimore catechism. If there was one question we all knew the answer to, it was, ‘Why did God make you?’ The answer, of course, was, ‘to know God, to love God, and to serve God in this life - so as to be happy with Him in the next.’ Sr. Mary Robert did know God, and she loved God, and she served Him very well. Mother Lurana wrote, “*O beauty ever ancient, O beauty ever new, the beatific vision enralls the raptured view. The bride and the bridegroom enter, the marriage song is sun. Lo! Time is ever ended. Eternity begun.*” For Sr. Mary Robert, time is ever-ended and eternity has begun. We pray always, eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the just, rest in peace.”



Kevin Giroux, grand-nephew of Sr. Mary Robert, is an accomplished musician and played for Sister’s funeral Mass.