

A Short Version of a Long Life

May 3, 1916 Arleen and Eileen McCarty, born premature, Sheldon, Iowa – mother died in childbirth, raised by Josie Dunn and Jim McCarty
1930-1934 Although Eileen wore the dancing shoes; they were both the life of the party at Sheldon High School
1940 Library Science Degree from the College of St Catherine, St. Paul, MN
1940 Librarian, Mandan, N.D. Emerson believed she needed to know what it was like to work before she married, in case anything happened to him
June 26, 1941 Married Emerson Hynes, Collegeville, MN
July 1942- May 1957 Bore 10 children, Denis, Patrick, Mary, Hilary, Brigid, Peter, Michael, Thomas More, Timothy and Christopher, six under six and no electricity, living in a home lovingly built by Emerson, sharing ideas and conversation, and an occasional glass of wine with the monks at St. John's, where Emerson taught, and the many nieces and nephews who attended St John's and St Ben's. Taught their children by example to live the Benedictine Rule "Work and Prayer"
1958 wrote with Emerson "The Passover Meal, A Ritual for Christian Homes" to be used to help families recognize the Judea-Christian heritage and the continuity between the Passover and the Eucharist, republished 1974
January 1959 moved to Washington, DC so that Emerson could serve as Senator Eugene McCarthy's Legislative Assistant
1960-1962 participated in a national Study Group interpreting the liturgical changes brought about by Vatican II
1962-64 President of the American Association of University Women, Northern Virginia Chapter, undertook study on the Role of Women
1968 National chair of Volunteers for McCarthy
Sept 4, 1970 Michael Hynes drowned in the Potomac River
July 29, 1971 Emerson Hynes died of heart attack
1971-1980 Worked in the patient's library at St Elizabeth's Psychiatric Hospital in DC, began practicing bibliotherapy under Ken Gorelick
1978 Recipient of the Dorthea Dix Award for her work at St Elizabeth's
1980 Entered monastic life at St Benedict's Convent in St Joseph, MN, joining her niece Sr. Nancy Hynes, taking her vows in 1981
1986 Published the definitive textbook "Bibliotherapy - The Interactive Process: A Handbook" with daughter Mary Hynes-Berry, republished Northstar Press, 1994
October 2004 diagnosed with liver cancer and in February 2005, after outliving the doctor's first (of many) projections of her death, began celebrating her "bonus days"
July 12, 2006 celebrated her 25th jubilee as a Benedictine nun
September 5, 2006 12:12pm was granted the grace of a happy death, in her own bed, surrounded by the love of her children and the Sisters of St Benedict

Sister Arleen McCarty Hynes



Eileen's Twin
Youngest of 10
Survivor from Birth
Last of Her Generation
Loving Wife, Emerson's Partner
Mother of 10
Sister Mary Mom
Gramarly Supreme
A Valiant Woman
Caring Bibliotherapist
Librarian and Lover of Books
A Wonderful, Wonderful Woman
A Founder of the National Association of Poetry Therapy
A Founder of the National Federation for bibliopoetry Therapy
A Wonder Woman
Sparkling-Eyed Enthusiast
Lover of Life
Daily Pray Sayer



In Memory Of
Arleen McCarthy Hynes, OSB
May 3, 1916
September 5, 2006



A Lady Slipper Supreme

A summer breeze blew soft across
The campus of old St. Ben
A flower bowed its lovely head
Never to bloom again

Be not saddened by this course of life
But rejoice in what did grow
The beauty, the grace the colorful face
The tenderness she did show

She burst upon life's garden plot
And shared without regret
She gave to all that greeted her
The traits that God did set

Her roots are strong with hardy growth
And they promise to fulfill
The continuance of her humbled life
Her strengths, her love, her will

God's garden plot in heaven above
Is full of flowers past
With His tender loving hand
Such blooms will always last

So grieve you now with tears unleashed
Show your love out loud
Remind yourself the gift of life
Is fleeting, like a cloud.

Be you a flower as she has been
A Lady Slipper Supreme
Be you a flower God will pick
Be you... an Auntie Arleen.

On Behalf of the Ackerman Clan
Greg Ackerman
09/05/2006

chapter 13 of Corinthians every Sunday at meal time hoping that the message would sink in. All of us who have witnessed the love in this family know it did sink in.



For the past 25 years S. Arleen has blessed our community with her presence. She has shared her gifts and talents generously. We treasured her life among us. She was a model of community life and eager for the work of God. She loved the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. Even when she herself was not feeling well, S. Arleen went to visit sisters in Louise Hall who were sick.

S. Arleen was a good listener. She enjoyed sharing ideas, stories and poetry. She looked for new insights, new ways of appreciating life and new possibilities. Her attitude was always one of gratitude. When she was diagnosed with cancer, she decided against chemotherapy. She began to reflect more deeply on death and heaven. This was life-giving for Arleen. While she expressed her longing for the vision of heaven, she lived life here wholeheartedly. Her 90th birthday celebration was a milestone. The whole family came. They took her to Denis' house. As they left they said, "We'll have her back by 10 o'clock. It was after midnight when she returned, because she did not want to leave the party. Being with her children was energizing for her. They said she was the one who did the story telling. S. Arleen, you have not just visited this world. You have made a difference in this world. Join us now from your banquet table in heaven as we celebrate the wonders of God's love made visible in the Eucharist.

Homily at the Funeral of S. Arleen September 8, 2006 Bernadette Weber, OSB

The readings we just heard, chosen by S. Arleen's family, certainly describe her life well. The one phrase in the reading that doesn't fit her is, "She rises while it is still night." It should read, "She stays up all hours of the night." S. Arleen loved to read, visit and party into the night.

She was truly the valiant woman: a devoted wife, a loving mother, an ever-present homemaker. That must be why the children chose the gospel passage of the corporal works of mercy. They remembered all her bread baking and cooking, her providing clothes and a home, her care for them when they were sick and her welcoming others into their home.



Arleen and her husband, Emerson, lived the Benedictine values. Theirs was surely a family-centered home including a life of prayer, work and leisure. Arleen was humble about her human weaknesses. She told us about a time when she said she was out of sorts. She had taught the children well about the Little Way of St. Therese. Three year old Patrick said, "Mama, I thought you were following the little way."

Emerson wanted the family to strive for the "more excellent way" described in our second reading. The children said he read

A Tribute to Sister Arleen Hynes Geri Chavis

Avid organizer in the vanguard of poetry therapy
Ready always to help others
Lover of life-long learning and
Enthusiast of word magic, you uphold standards of
Excellence and shared knowledge garnered over time
Nurturing and calmly wise pragmatist, you constructed

Havens for the lonely and oppressed
You inspired others to create,
Never giving up on even the silent ones
Each person you reached voiced his or her own
Special soulful song

Sr. Arleen's Spiritual Legacy

I, Sister Arleen McCarty Hynes, O.S.B., do make, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament to the goodness and kindness of God, our Savior, towards all of us for which these worldly goods are but a token. In the words of St. Paul, which I have prayed daily for you since the year Patrick was in Viet Nam and Peter in Korea, since the year before Michael died, and since 2-1/2 years before Emerson died:

"I fall on my knees before the Father (from whom all fatherhood and motherhood, earthly or heavenly, derives its name), and I pray that out of the glorious richness of his resources he will enable you to know the strength of the Spirit's inner reinforcement--that Christ may actually live in your hearts by faith. And I pray that you, firmly fixed in love yourselves, may be able to grasp (with all Christians) how wide and deep and long and high is the love of Christ--and know for yourselves that love so far beyond your comprehension. May you be filled through all your being with God himself!

Now to him by this power within us is able to do infinitely more than we ever dare to ask or imagine--to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3, 14-21.

arleen's labor day
'o do thou direct the work of our hands'

arleen labored gently
to achieve death

as intently as she lived
to birth those children
those ideas
that beauty
that wonder


as directly as if
god had ordered
her to do these things
in person although
acting within the
medium of uncertainty

as humbly as if
she had accepted
from the beginning
that the crooked path
shows the forest's best

as triumphantly
as any home-bound
wayfaring pilgrim
who scents the
kitchen and the garden
of ancestral rest

that long breath --
unbroken string of sussuration
sustained since josie dunn
saved the twins from
helpless inanition
one far spring ago --
now meditates upon itself
where no convent needs remind
no clan holds sway
but our lord god sets out
the humble table of our becoming

Jamie Yeager



Sister Arleen McCarty Hynes
May 3, 1916-September 5, 2006

You are a Wonder Woman in our eyes
Not so much for the wonders that you did do—
Though as sister, wife, and mother, empassioned
Partisan of poetry and prayer, no one denies
Wonders were in deed done by you.

I am thinking more of how, all your life
The world has been rich—even rife—
With cause for wonder in your eyes.

I am thinking how with what wonder
And delight you would pick up a stone,
Cradling its striated or pied hard beauty
Noting what others might kick aside or leave alone.
And how often you would report with glee
The arrival of spring's first green-gold,
Or exclaim at the eloquence with which a tree
Etched itself against the cloud-flecked sky.

And I am thinking of the intellectual wonder
That made you burn with curiosity and fed
Your ready impulse to reflect
On concerns of spiritual substance in stead
Of mundane matters around our daily bread.
And yet, how often you wondered
How you might positively connect
With everyone you knew or might have met.

Now the capacity for wonder is complex--
It's not a super power,
Achieved with the wave of a magic rod—
Rather, like a flower—
Though a gift from God--
It must be nurtured, worked at hard
For wonder -- like believing,
Like loving, and like leaving
Can be demanding and intense

So as you close those blue eyes to this world
To open in the wonder of the next,
Again we proclaim you a Wonder Woman
And thank God how in your believing,
In your loving, and in your leaving
You have shown such wonder-full
Such inspiring diligence.

Mary Hynes-Berry

LUCENT LIGHT

She waits for death

Your Irish eyes glow with a particular
shade of blue, a color that has remained
unchanged for ninety years, for nearly
thirty-three thousand days of sight.

Your eyes see more wisely now, see
more clearly beyond these final days
as you are beckoned by lucent light.

But it is hard work to labor and birth
this death. And we ask heaven to bend,
to hold you through long, dark nights.

And we ask dear death, when it comes,
to enter gently, to come like the silver
song of a skylark: free, and with joy,
while soaring to great, blue heights.

We have known your life to be a psalm
of praise. And we ask that song to carry
your weary soul high, in effortless flight.

Mary Willette Hughes

Memorial Mass for Sr. Arleen Hynes October 21, 2006

Before Mass: Turn, Turn, Turn

Opening Song: I heard the Voice of Jesus Say #470

1st Reading: Proverbs 31 Denis Hynes

Psalm Response: Psalm 16 Jamie Yeager

(All) Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to you Lord "You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 13 Brigid Hynes-Cherin

Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 25 Father Tuzzolo

Homily Sister Nancy Hynes

Gift Offering: Hilary, Peter and Timothy Hynes

Prayers of the Faithful (All) Lord hear our prayer

Offertory Song: Shepherd Me O God #472

Communion Songs: I Am the Bread of Life #339
You Are Mine #466

Remembrances:

Family – Patrick Hynes

Monastery of St Benedict – Sr. Nancy Hynes

Poetry Therapy Association – Ken Gorelick

Our Lady Queen of Peace Friends – Delores Leckey

Closing Poem – Mary Hynes-Berry

Closing Song: (tune of Joyful, Joyful)

All Who Seek to Know



1. All who seek to know and serve God, see the past and un - der - stand:
2. If our God does not con-demn us, who a - gainst us then will stand?
3. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Joy a - waits all those who mourn.



none who hoped were dis - ap - point-ed; rich the bless - ings from God's hand!
Will the Lord, who died for sin - ners, who sits now at God's right hand?
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Death has died and life is born.



None who wait - ed were for - sak - en; none who trust - ed were de - ceived.
What could take us from Christ Je - sus? Nei - ther hun - ger, sword, nor pain!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Our re - deem - er, Je - sus lives!



All who asked for gra - cious par - don, gen - tle mer - cy have re - ceived.
Nei - ther life nor death shall part us from the Lamb for us once slain.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Grace and glo - ry Je - sus gives!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, © 1983, 2003, Sisters of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN 56374-0220. Published by GIA Publications, Inc.
Used with permission.
Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D, adapted in 1846 by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867, from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827