

VIGIL: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY MACKILLOP

Date: **October 16, 2010**

Place: **Auditorium Conciliazione, Rome**

Didgeridoo plays briefly

Mary's Words (voiceover): 'Remember we are but travellers here. With this thought ever in our minds, how easy would the daily trials of life become to us.'

Mary to Flora November 1866

Didgeridoo continues

The book of Scriptures is processed onto the stage

Led by aboriginal people and accompanied by people of various cultures

All in the assembly stand to sing:

Hymn: Unless a Grain of Wheat

Refrain: Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die.
It remains but a single grain with no life.

1. If you remain in me and my word lives in you,
then you will be my disciples. R/
2. Those who love me are loved by my Father;
We shall be with them and dwell in them. R/
3. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
peace which the world cannot give is my gift. R/

Text: John 12:24; Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957, Tune: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957; ©
1983, Bernadette Farrell, published by OCP Publications

Greeting: Archbishop Wilson
Peace be with you.
ALL: And also with you

Collect: Archbishop Wilson
Let us pray
lifted up among us O loving God,
is Jesus crucified: sign of your steadfast love

And pledge of your will to save.
To those who look upon the cross with faith
As did your daughter Blessed Mary MacKillop,
Grant healing and life eternal.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

All who have processed to the stage return to their seats in body of auditorium.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Scripture (NRSV) is proclaimed from the ambo.
Word of Mary MacKillop is spoken from a lectern near the cross
All sit*

Word of God 1

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up the cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it; and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.' Luke 9:23-24

Word of Mary MacKillop 1

The Cross is my portion – it is also my sweet rest and support. I could not be happy without my cross – I would not lay it down for all the world could give. With the Cross I am happy, but without it would be lost. (to her mother Feb 26, 1872)

Reflection *voiceover*

From an early age Mary suffered many hardships in her life – in her family, her own ill health and from others. Mary's love of Christ led her to recognise hardship as God's gift and to embrace the cross daily.

Pause

Cantor sings refrain:

It is in love that God now leads us,
it is with love that God reproves us,
and it is through love that God lets us see love in all.

© 2010, Christopher Willcock; word Jenny O'Brien based on words of Mary MacKillop

Word of God 2:

Turning to the disciples, Jesus said: 'All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all

you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’ Matt 11:27 – 30

Word of Mary MacKillop 2:

My only anxiety is that lest I should fail in any sorrow or humiliation He should put upon me. I cannot say with God’s faithful servants that I love humiliations, but I know they are good for me, and if he sends them I hope I shall be grateful. I do want with all my heart to be what God wishes me to be. (December 1, 1898)

Reflection

Mary was often faced with difficult decisions and at times suffered public humiliation and distress, both for herself and her Sisters. Mary prayed constantly that she would have the courage to accept each trial as a loving invitation to share in the sufferings of Christ.

Choir sings refrain:

It is in love that God now leads us,
it is with love that God reproves us,
and it is through love that God lets us see love in all.

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Word of God 3:

Jesus looked at his disciples and said: Be merciful just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you will be given back. Lk 6: 36 -38

Word of Mary MacKillop 3:

I feel a peculiar pain when I hear of a cross coming to us from the hands of a good person. I think it brings me closer to God, without ever making me think harshly of that person. I can only see in such instruments in the hands of God for the purification of his children, and as such, persons for whom we should pray as amongst our most powerful benefactors. (November 1869)

Reflection:

Mary experienced perplexity and deep anguish in the face of misunderstanding and betrayal from many she considered friends. Through her constant focus on the cross Mary was able to recognise every struggle as a gift from God and to pray with gratitude for those who turned against her.

All sing refrain:

It is in love that God now leads us,
it is with love that God reproves us,
and it is through love that God lets us see love in all.

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MacKillop

Word of God 4:

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, Jesus went to the synagogue on the sabbath day as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Luke 4: 16 – 19

Word of Mary MacKillop 4:

Let us ask Joseph to obtain for us a generous devoted love for Jesus, a love that will make us like himself ... A love that, ... will make us delight in serving him in His Poor, and His neglected little ones, that will teach us patience with their faults, and how in loving charity to help them overcome them. And this love of Christ cannot exist in our hearts without enabling us to live in perfect charity and love. (to the Sisters March 19, 1893)

Reflection

Mary's love for Christ was so abundant that it caused her to recognise the suffering Christ in the poor, the sick, the oppressed and the lonely. And so, driven by loving compassion and in the spirit of their patron Joseph, Mary generously and selflessly served all who were in need and urged her Sisters to do the same.

All sing refrain:

It is in love that God now leads us,
it is with love that God reproves us,
and it is through love that God lets us see love in all.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE WORD AND CROSS

Didgeridoo plays.

*Those who accompanied the word in the entrance procession come onto the stage. Identifiable groups come forward and make a customary gesture of reverence to the cross and word: first peoples (aboriginal, Maori); Peru, East Timor, Vietnam, family, elderly, young, Sisters. They remain at the cross
Hymn to accompany the procession:*

Hymn: If I could tell the love of God

1. If I could tell the love of God
I'd sing of one my heart enjoys,
of one who whispers, warm and calm,
of one whose tender touch persists.
If I could tell the love of God
I'd sing of beauty rarely seen,
of shadow gums and stringy bark,
of track and water hard to find.

 2. If I could tell the love of God
I'd sing of women seen as fools
because, in Joseph's hidden way,
they crossed an empty land with trust.
If I could tell the love of God
I'd sing of women working hard,
receiving bits of broken bread,
and poor enough to serve the poor.

 3. If I could tell the love of God
I'd sing of Christ who chose the Cross.
His wisdom brings the mighty down;
his strength uplifts the stable's child.
If I could tell the love of God
I'd sing of Christ who chose the Cross.
His justice mends a broken world,
his mercy turns the grave around.
- If I could tell the love of God,
If I could tell the love of God.

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From lectern:

'Let us refuse nothing to God's love. He humbled Himself and suffered for us – Let us be glad to show Him we are willing to suffer whatever he deigns to ask of us.' (Sisters: September 18, 1906)

From the ambo proclaimed by a Peruvian woman in Spanish and at the other ceremony proclaimed by an East Timorese woman in Tetun. (English translation on screen):

'And many women were there at the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him.' Matthew 27:55-56

Silence

From the ambo (same voice but now in English):

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples.' Matthew 28:1, 5-7a

The tableau remains at the cross

Sr Anne Derwin: Let us stand and pray that through the intercession of Blessed Mary MacKillop we too may have the courage to be faithful to the cross and God's Word in our own life's journey.

Litany of Blessed Mary MacKillop (sung)

Lord, have mercy on us	Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, have mercy on us	Christ, have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us	Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, hear us	Christ, graciously hear us

God the Creator of all things	have mercy on us
God the Son, Redeemer of the world	have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit	have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, One God	have mercy on us

Holy Mary	pray for us
Saint Joseph	pray for us
Saint John the Baptist	pray for us

Blessed Mary of the Cross	pray for us
Faithful to the will of God	pray for us
Trusting God's loving care	pray for us
Knowing God's mercy	pray for us

Responding to the Holy Spirit pray for us
Devoted to the Heart of Jesus pray for us
Accepting of the cross in life pray for us
For-giving all who hurt you pray for us
Defending human dignity pray for us

Mary MacKillop intercede for us
On our life's journey come to our aid.

Blessed Mary of the Cross pray for us
Living in simplicity pray for us
Serving the neglected ones pray for us
Teaching God's little ones pray for us
Standing with the vulnerable pray for us
Serving with compassion pray for us

Mary MacKillop give us your passion
May we respond to all those in need.

Blessed Mary of the Cross journey with us
Gift of God to us today journey with us
Witness of the gospel journey with us
Pilgrim on life's way journey with us
Comfort of the sick and dying journey with us
Strength for all the weary journey with us
Leading by example journey with us
Open to God's presence journey with us
Prayerful and courageous journey with us

Mary MacKillop remind us always
We are but travellers here in this world.

Jesus, Son of the living God Lord hear our prayer
Christ hear us Christ hear us
Lord Jesus hear our prayer Lord Jesus hear our prayer

*Words: Therese McGarry rsj & Monica Barlow rsj. Music: Joseph Dryzga
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PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Archbishop Wilson:

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Silence

By the power of your grace, O Gracious God,
Give your people new energy and strength
As they joyfully anticipate the canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop.
May they remain faithful to you in prayer
And devoted to one another in works of charity.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Amen

Archbishop Wilson: May almighty God bless you,
The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
All: Amen

Sr Anne Derwin: Let us move from this place with prayerful anticipation and excitement
as we await the joyful celebration of tomorrow.

Final hymn: From Penola's Plains

1. Loving God, we give you thanks this day as gladly we rejoice,
that a woman's life should so proclaim a love that heard your voice.
Now inspired by her example, may we strive to seek your face,
so that in our rugged homeland the poor will find a place.
Here with Mary of the Cross we pray your truth may guide our way,
that our open hearts may hear your call to follow you each day.
2. Let our praise now fill this joyful space as loudly we proclaim
that in Mary's life we see the faith that glorifies your name.
For her heart knew your compassion at the plight of children poor.
So she mustered all her courage and saw her future call.
Trusting firm in you she ventured forth, her eyes upon your cross.
From Penola's plains to all the world, her arms reached out in love.
3. Holy Spirit gift of live divine, with you we dare to dream.
may your wisdom come to lead us on where justice reigns supreme.
Now may Mary's love inspire us, and the cross still lead us on.
Give us hearts that never waver 'til victory is won.
Let our lives show forth your tender love, compassion warm and bold.
Help us bring Good News to all the world, your Spirit-Love unfold.

Text, © 2009, Michael Herry fms and Geoffrey Cox.
Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934) adapted by Michael Herry.