



Sr M. Winefride Lovett LCM.

Firstly, I welcome today those who loved Win – her family, Martine, Tony, Dominique, Rhys and Juliet and of course, our LCM Sisters, Fran especially and her friends. Each one of you played a part in the journey of love that was Win's life. We are here to celebrate this woman of faith. We are together in sadness that she has gone and, in a way, joy, because we know she is with the One who loved her above all. I welcome too our celebrant, Fr Aub. Thank you for being with us as one who walked the journey of the last years with Win.

Win's story is indeed a story of faith and love. At the age of 14, she converted to the Catholic faith. She always felt that somewhere in the family heritage, there had been a Catholic spirit and somehow, it had been passed on to her. At the time, the family found this hard and Win was to experience great sadness through this.

For her, the call to life in the LCM was clear after she went to Lewisham to have her appendix out. Win smiled to remember that it was stomach pain that led her to Lewisham, where she found a true home. For her, our way of being – one in the heart of Mary – was made real through her interaction with the sisters who cared for her, especially Sr Placid. Once having had that experience, her call was clear to her and she entered in March 1947.

Her family struggled with this decision too, although her mother was always a visitor on visiting days reassuring Win of the place she held in their hearts. After a time, her family came to see and understand the happiness our life gave Win. From then on, the family relationships with Dorothy, Norm and Bill and Joan were close and this has continued today. Win was immensely proud of Martine and her family and of Juliet. We who lived with her knew that. The last sentence Win spoke was

when Martine, Tony and Rhys had joined her at Concord Hospital. The reminiscences they shared with their Auntie Winnie, which Helen and I were privileged to witness, were happy and therefore noisy. I said to Win: there is a lot of happiness and you can hear it. She responded: "I can hear it". Win knew the love of her family in these last hours. She knew the love of many, especially also the family of her dear LCM friend, Fran, to whom she was Auntie Winnie too.

Win completed her training at Lewisham and made her final vows in New Zealand where she began the ministry she loved – maternity nursing. She returned to Calvary Adelaide and completed her midwifery. She had found her true ministry and went on to be the midwifery supervisor in Adelaide, her specialty - nursery and then in Hobart. These were ministries that shaped her maternal spirit. That spirit saw her superior at Star of the Sea, Wallaroo hostel and nursing home, treasurer and Ryde and Superior at Wagga, the community in which I came to know Win and experience her care for those young in religious life. Ministry in pastoral care at Kogarah, Concord West and Ryde saw her called to a new one of "mothering".

Finally in 1999, Win made her way to Ryde, her home for these last years. In this, she was accompanied by Fran. So too, was she accompanied by Fran on her last journey and together, the night before she died, after receiving the sacrament of the sick, Win and Fran recited their vows to together. Win understood the journey she was about to make and indicated to her doctors that she wished to slip peacefully and comfortably away. This is what she did.

Win loved our Foundress – the woman, Mary Potter. She made it clear to those who found Venerable Mary Potter hard to understand through her writings and the stories of her life that they should try harder. If they did, that courageous maternal spirit seemed to become more real to them. This was one of the gifts Win gave others.

In song and music, and in nature, Win found her God, too. The rising sun, a walk on the beach, Pachelbel's Canon, lifting her voice in song were, for her, the experience of God.

When I went to her room on Sunday to look for her Requiem Mass instructions, as you will understand Win had detailed for us, the envelope said:

"Make it a Mass of praise and joyful thanksgiving."

This was Win's life.

Win, we come to farewell you and to celebrate that you are called to the fullness of life with the God you loved throughout your life.

May you rest in peace.

