



## REFLECTIONS OF CELIE MULCARE

Died - 1<sup>ST</sup> March 2010

Today we celebrate the life and journey of a unique and special woman of the Little Company of Mary.

I would also like to welcome you all, and as Sr Marie Therese said it is good to have her family, friends and LCM Sisters here to farewell Celie and to celebrate her life together.

There were so many significant and important events in Celie's life, so many memories that each of us have, has made this reflection on Celie's life hard to condense.

First and foremost Celie was an LCM, something that like all of us pilgrims, she grew into, with her own richness of spirituality and depth of closeness to her God.

She entered in 1958 and progressed through to final profession in 1964 taking her motto Jesus, just one word - Jesus.

The formative years in the Novitiate were some times not easy, but Celie weathered the storm in many aspects of her life.

Before she entered Celie was a professional in nursing and psychiatric care, and then for three years till 1964 she studied radiography at Lewisham.

One day as she was walking into the chapel at Lewisham the Provincial at the time was developing a new foundation in Seoul, South Korea and was wondering who she could send to strengthen our presence there as these were very early days.

Celie had come up from the hospital and was walking into the Chapel and had to pass the Provincial who was kneeling at her prieu dieu, Mother Mark, who saw Celie's presence as a sign that she would ask Celie if she would go to Korea, and she accepted, and a very rich part of Celie's life began for her then.

For nearly ten years she ministered to many people in Korea, made wonderful friends who are present with us today concelebrating mass for her and others here in this Chapel who were also fellow travellers on the boat which took 6 weeks to get to Korea.

On her return to Australia, Celie was involved in various ministries, and another turning point in her life was the introduction to Kairos, a spirituality programme where she was able to participate in exploring one of her favourite authors Teilhard De Chardin, and took no time in telling the Director of he programme after giving a talk on cosmic spirituality that it really was not a good presentation or input and did not do justice to Tielhard de Chardin.

From having completed this course, a few of those Sisters who are here today embarked on a programme called Tabgha, situated near Cessnock, which incorporated developing and exploring

cosmic spirituality and combining ministering and care for the marginalized. Celie fitted the bill and worked there for 10 years loving the environment and the purpose of her ministry.

During this time Celie also ministered to the men at Matt Talbot in Newcastle, and for them she still is and I guess always will be that shining star in their lives of great need.

As we know Celie moved to Newcastle in 2003 and began another part of her Ministry with Calvary Retirement Community at Cessnock making all sorts of things for the staff for morning tea and helping to support the beginnings of Calvary in difficult times.

Celie's home was where hospitality was offered to all and sundry and many of you have shared that - it was a place where bread was broken and shared, it was a place of humanness and of love but most of all I know it was her place where she could commune with her God her Jesus.

Many friends in Newcastle surrounded her at her time of diagnosis at Calvary Mater, and have been saddened at Celie's death, and I thank you for being there and also for your presence here today.

The day before she died Celie asked for a quiet day, we had talked about the waiting time, her waiting time; she needed to be on her own to feel the peace she felt at Calvary Mater, that wish was respected, and she died Monday afternoon with LCM Sisters with her.

To all her family our sincere love and prayers for she was most loved by you all and that was reciprocated very deeply.

From us Celie to you thank you for all you have done for many people, for us, and for the Little Company of Mary for keeping your spiritedness alive, for the gift you gave to us in the form of a rich and unique experience of what our lives are all about, the breaking of bread and the sharing of life in all its humanness.

Celie wrote the following to the sisters with the help of a friend about 10 days before she died and I thought you would like to hear it.

*"A wonderful journey  
And a life full of questions.  
Each of you have been part of this journey.*

*Thank you*

*Some had a deep association – to those my love and appreciation.  
One cannot dissect a life journey, but all of use can give thanks for the steps of the journey and the people we have touched along the way, God bless you for that.*

*Here ends an earthly journey only, May your spiritual journey be full of surprise, wonder and eternal love.*

*And to the eternal shaping in my life who we refer to as God, my gratitude for this life and the joy and surprises it has bought me.*

*With love and gratitude to each one of you.*

*Celie"*

