

+Ida Novacek – June 1, 2020

In behalf of Sacred Heart Parish and all who are not able to be here today, our sympathy to all of you on the death of your good mother and family member, +Ida. She was a wonderful member of our parish community and larger community as well, and we are all saddened at her parting from us.

As a church community we have just completed our celebration of the Lent and Easter season in which we remembered how Jesus not only united himself with our humanity and shared in all our suffering and even our dying, but then in his resurrection conquered and overcome death not only for himself but for all of humanity. In his death and resurrection our own sin and death has been overcome and the way to eternal life that had been lost is now opened again to us.

This last weekend on Pentecost we celebrated God's gift to us of the Holy Spirit given to us that we might all have the power to live new and holy lives in Christ and in the manner of Christ.

With the gift of the Holy Spirit also comes the power and desire to celebrate and to share this good new and new life with all people. That is what we are doing this morning. We have come together to support and console each other in the grief at +Ida's death, but also in these funeral rites to celebrate and proclaim our faith and confidence that our sister's death is not the end, but only the passageway to a new and eternal life with God and all the faithful who have gone before us. We are here to proclaim and celebrate the God has created each person for eternal life.

Today we also come together to thank God for all the ways that his power and grace was present in the life of +Ida and flowed through her life to us and to so many others. Although we have to wait for the life to come to experience the fullness of our new life in God and sharing in the glory of God, in many ways that newness of life and even the glory of the

life to come was already transfigured and seen in +Ida's life among us.

That she and +Ernie not only opened their lives to welcome 11 children into their family but also did it with such joy and enthusiasm is truly a sign of God's grace in our midst. We thank God today for the gift of their lives in countless ways not only to our family but to so many others throughout their life.

We thank God for the gift of organization that he gave to +Ida that enabled her to be involved in so many things and to help others to be involved. One example of her organization was that for many years already she had labeled the things she wanted others to have after her death with their names. We thank God for the gift of her concern and love for others. She was second mother and grandmother to many throughout her life.

Even to her last days her apartment at Northern Horizons was open to all and all were joyfully welcomed there. One of her biggest joys this last year or so was to host the celebration of the Mass in her apartment for the Catholics that lived there.

There are so many things in +Ida's life that we are grateful to God for and lift up our thanks to God for in this Mass, but above all we are grateful for her joyful faith and the way that it flowed into all her actions. We thank God for all the people and church communities that handed on this faith to her and we pray that the faith that she handed on to us will continue remain with us and grow in us and be shared with others also.

As promised, Jesus shepherded her throughout her life leading her now into the kingdom of heaven. It was not as easy as she may have made it look. She suffered with arthritis all her life, but the Lord carried her through all her difficulties and we now trust that the Lord will do the same for us during these days and in our years to come.

Blessed be the Lord our God and blessed be our memories and the gifts that we have received from the Lord through her life. We celebrate the goodness and mercy of God for all of us today in the life of +Ida, our good mother and sister in Christ.