

Prayer

At The Celebration of The Life of Margaret Ruth Olezczuk

Richard A. Rhem
The Lee Chapel, Sytsema Funeral Home
Norton Shores, Michigan

September 15, 2014

Transcription of the written prayer

For these few moments, O God,
Sacred Mystery of our lives,
Creative Source, Eternal Presence, and our Final Home,
grace us with awareness
that we are held in the embrace of Love
as family and friends
and the one we have loved and lost awhile.

God of our lives,
beyond the changing seasons,
constant through the passages that mark our days,
for these moments, still our minds, quiet our hearts,
be present to us as we, in Your presence,
remember this one who filled so large a role in our lives.

Her physical beauty was the outward embodiment
of the beauty of the soul,
the instrument of a human spirit
that transformed every situation into which she entered,
creating joy, good humor, well being.
She had that about her that made us confident
that all would be well –
not through what she did, but simply because her presence
was a sweet aroma of grace and goodness
that changed everything for the better.

O God, our hearts are full.
Images tumble through our minds.
We see her yet,
always a lady, stunning, stylish, classy,
able always simply to be herself –
unaffected, genuine, authentic, deep.

For this crown jewel of Your creative art,
we give You thanks.

O God, there is no denying our loss.
Where love looms large, loss is large as well.
Where bonds of love are tight,
when broken, grief and loss are painful.
All of that we own, we acknowledge without denial.

Yet we are overwhelmed
by the beauty, the wonder of this life
that has touched us so deeply –
the amazing grace with which she lived
and the deep trust with which she breathed her last.

And in such a time as this,
in such a place as this,
Gracious God,
we are grateful above all
that the end is not broken health and dreams unfulfilled,
swallowed up in death,
but rather the confidence that
to live is to live unto the Lord,
and to die is to die unto the Lord.
So then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's.

Receive our thanksgiving, O God.
Grant the comfort of Your Spirit.
Renew our hope and lead us on
in the confidence that nothing can ever separate us
from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Who taught us to pray, saying,

*“Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.*