

Reflection

Reader One

Our sisters, our ancestors in the Spirit, walk with us still and always will. They have opened themselves up to the sacred dance of Sophia, and lead us in that same journey. They have gone to the Light, but their light guides us still. They are our wise woman archetypes. From their place in the Communion of Saints, they fondly and forever watch over us. Our deceased sisters continue to bless us with the abundance of the great Love they now know. From the energy of this love, our ministries are blessed, our journey enlightened, our sisterhood ever rekindled.

Reader Two

We remember them because we are a living part of them. Some of these wise women have recently left us and we still feel their absence from this life form. Those who are gone many years have become an unconscious part of our belonging and our journey.

Reader One

Our deceased sisters challenged many borders during their lifetimes. They have fought the good fight. They have run the race. They have crossed the finish line. They have achieved their glorious homecoming. We remember them with love and admiration. We take this gathering time as a loving opportunity to recall their presence amongst us, and call on them to bless us in our individual and communal journey.

Remembering our sisters by name

Response: Do not be afraid! I am with you. I have called you each by name.

Come and follow me! I will bring you home. I love you and you are Mine!

Reader Two

The mission of the Sisters For Christian Community is to birth a new understanding of the reign of God. We envision building a global community where all will be one, and where openness to the Spirit empowers us to search new and challenging horizons.

Reader A We remember our sisters: the happiness they brought to others,
their hope and idealism, their joy.

(Read names of sisters.....) Sung response

Reader B We remember our sisters: their life, their vigor, the new beginnings
and the nurturing they brought to others.

(Read names of sisters.....) Sung response !

Reader A We remember our sisters : their dependability, trust and confidence,
their tranquility, their peace.

(Read names of sisters.....) Sung response

Reader B We remember our sisters : their spirituality and dignity, their faithfulness and their wisdom.

(Read names of sisters.....) Sung response

Reader A We remember our sisters : their strength and their power,
their vitality and energy, their generous love.

(Read names of sisters.....) Sung response

Reader B We remember our sisters : their energy and enthusiasm,
their creativity and empowerment of others.

(Read names of sisters.....) Sung response

Reader A We remember our sisters : the warmth of their smile, their hope and idealism,
the newness of their inner freedom.

(Read names of sisters.....) Sung response

Responsorial

Response **We remember them.**

Leader One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down....

Leader Two: In all seasons of time and of heart.....

Leader One: In their passion for bringing the word of God to Life....

Leader Two: In their efforts to build community.....

Leader One: In their courage to look for new ways of expressing their vows.....

Leader Two: In their living faith.....

Leader One: In their love of and creation of beauty.....

Leader Two: In their care of others.....

Leader One: In their song of Hope.....

Leader Two: In their deeds of strength and integrity.....

Leader One: In their steadfastness in the journey.....

Leader Two: So long as we live, they shall live,

Response for they are now a part of us!

Leader One: Holy was the journey of our sisters' lives,

Response for they walked the way of God's path.

Leader Two: Holy was the joy with which our sisters served,

Response for they delighted in loving God.

Leader One: Holy was the suffering that our sisters endured,

Response for they believed in the Will of God.

Leader Two: Holy was the death that took our sisters from us,

Response for they were led home to life with our Creator!

Closing Prayer

(All) Our deceased sisters have blazed the path for us to follow in moving toward our personal transformation and conversion of heart. They light our paths as we explore our own gifts of our years. We call on our sisters, in our SFCC Communion of Saints, to be with us especially this week, in our striving that All May Be One.

Standing on the Shoulders

Joyce Johnson Rouse

1. I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me.
I am stronger for their courage! I am wiser for their words!
I am lifted by their longing for a fair and brighter future.
I am grateful for their vision, for their toiling on this earth.
2. We are standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before us.
They are saints and they are humans. They are angels. They are friends.
We can see beyond the struggles and the troubles and the challenge,
When we know that by our efforts, things will be better in the end.

Refrain: They lift me higher than I could ever fly, carrying my burdens away!
I imagine our world if they hadn't tried --
We wouldn't be here celebrating today!

3. I am standing on the shoulders of the ones who came before me.
I am honored by their passion, for our liberty.
I will stand a little taller! I will work a little longer!
And my shoulders will be there to hold those who follow me.
(slower) And my shoulder will be there to hold the ones.....
who follow me!