

## Living the Journey

Sister Marilyn Anne Brinker, CHM  
Reflection at her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Mass Celebration at  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.  
There are differences of ministries, but it is the same Lord.  
And there are diversities of activities, but the same God,  
who works all in all.  
But, the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one  
for the profit of all.  
For by the one spirit we are baptized into one body...  
for, in fact, the body is not one member, but many.”  
(1 Corinthians 12:4-14)

Jubilarians, many years ago each of us embarked upon a journey, our call, precise for the pilgrimage:

The invitation: “Come, follow me...”

“I have called you...”

The response: “Let it be done to me...”

“Fiat-Yes...”

The promise: “I am with you always...”

“Wherever I am, You will be...”

Joining a specific group, Congregation of the Humility of Mary.

Learning their charism and mission; each aware of our Foundress and heritage.

Bringing with us our limitations and weaknesses, strengths, creativity and gifts.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians says “and they shared everything in common.”

Thus, developing a life of spirituality and prayer for the invigorating journey in Community.

It involved following one’s intuition, feelings, and inner spirit.

It meant trusting one’s openness in ministry while celebrating life experiences.

It demanded discerning decisions, managing difficult choices, taking risks for the good of the whole, while being guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Our ministry, based on our charism, found us bringing Christ to the poor, oppressed, sick imprisoned and homeless.

Education and nursing were among our priorities.

Now, coffee shops, shelters, and a retreat center capture our energies.

Cultural diversity has widened our tents.

A renewed respect for the earth awakens a rich sacredness as creatures great and small lead us inward to our Creator, God.

Years Pass;

Adulthood, maturity

Elders-yes

Wisdom-true

Knowledge, responsibility

Honor, respect

Compassion, generosity of spirit and a deep love that clamors to join hearts and minds as one.

Within the journey:

It's our ability to be open to daily challenges as we burn brightly our Community flame.

It's greeting daily life-giving changes to a quickening new call.

It's acceptance of aging in mental and physical suffering.

It's preparing for pain, grief, sorrow and eventually, death.

Life beckons us, with JOY, for eternal life.

"COME FOLLOW ME."