



**October 18, 2009**  
**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Whoever wishes to be great among you, will be your servant.” Mark 10: 43*

Dear Friends,

Hearing God’s word is risky business. Here we are sitting in Church, just trying to slow down a little bit and collect some good thoughts to help us through the week. Then we hear the words “whoever wishes to be great among you must be the servant of the rest.”

In today’s Gospel, James and John told Jesus they wanted to be leaders and to sit next to Him. Jesus gave them a quick lesson in leadership. They were startled at his response. Did you hear Jesus’ answer to their request?

There was a young woman, Mary, a wife and mother of five children. She was vibrant, caring, loving, pinched pennies, prayed, laughed, played and worked hard for and with her family. She always was offering a helping hand to neighbors and strangers too. Her blue eyes were full of sparkle and she easily saw the pain of others, the moments of need, the lonely or sad. She always responded, no matter how simply. Her hands always reached out with a welcoming clasp and her arms with a warm hug. She helped with her children’s school activities, sports teams, church groups and other civic-community activities. As the years of her life unfolded and her children became adults she enjoyed their families and friends.

When asked to pray for someone’s needs, she got “the prayer factory” going; she would phone everyone to ask for prayers for the need at hand. Prayers were answered; her faith was limitless. Her joy abounded and was catchy. She was always involved. She lived a good life. She related equally well to little 3 year olds who wanted to tell her a story, to 18<sup>th</sup> year olds with friend problems, to married folks having troubles and right on up the years. At 90 years old she join her parish woman’s group call “WINGS.” It was composed of women of all ages, 26 years old – her. She wanted to learn with them, listen to their concerns, share a little, and to pray with them. She did until she died at 94 years old.

She had her own hardships and deep heartaches in life. She knew God’s loving care and she trusted in God’s presence. She shared her experience if it would be a source of hope for someone else in a time of need. One of her sayings was: “Pray as if everything depends upon God, and work as if everything depends upon you.”

She did not have the title of leader or president or chairperson very often, by her choice. She never asked to be at a place of honor. She definitely was “a great woman” because through out her entire life she thought of others first; she always “was the servant of the rest” as gospel invites us. She lived that way with joy, love, humor and selflessness. The Lord always got the credit. What a woman! She was my Mom!

May each of hearts be opened to hear the challenge proclaimed in this gospel, and of course, then to take action. Remember: “Pray as if everything depends upon God, and work as if everything depends upon you.”

May God bless you.

In Jesus and Mary,  
*Sister Barbara*