

David Goicoechea, January 24, 2006

FOR DORIS

Reverends John Course and Jim Powell
 Catherine, Tony, Jonathan and David
 Joe, Mary and Doris' early friends and neighbors
 Wilma and Murray, Hilda, Diana and Doris' McKay Colleagues
 Kathy Brown, the Anglican Church Women and the St. David's Community,
 members of the university Women's Club
 members of the Port Colborne Teacher's Association
 Mr. Ford, Christine, Diane, Johanna, Keith, Don and members of
 The Brock Philosophical Society,
 and all others present,

Each of us here loves Doris
 and we know that she loves us
 but that we might come to love her more
 let us now try to understand her better
 by pondering her unconscious life
 in her attitude, priorities and feelings
 and her conscious life
 in her thoughts, words and deeds.

DORIS ALWAYS CULTIVATED A WELL ORDERED LOVING ATTITUDE

The compass of Doris's heart will have always pointed
 and held firmly to the North Star of excellence.
 I first met Doris in the 1969
 Spring Evening Introductory Philosophy Class.
 There were 129 students in that class
 and fifteen of them became philosophy majors.
 Mr. Ford, Valerie, Diane, Axel and Doris remained
 as life-long members of the Brock community
 and founded and always supported
 the Brock Philosophical Society.
 I still remember Doris' first essay.
 I wrote on it the reasons why
 I thought it was so excellent
 and wrote how I felt about her
 and her extremely wonderful work.

As she continued her teaching and did
 her university courses, often two per term,
 she received the first Josephine Meeker Award
 for the most excellent student in continuing education.

Recently she has been very happy with
 the scholarship given each year in her name.
 She studied Greek for three years
 and wrote her Master's Thesis on
The importance of Love in the Thought of Plotinus.
 When Plotinus asked the most basic question,
 "Why is there something rather than nothing?"
 he outlined two basic answers.
 Either individuals come about because of
 some original negativity of
 forgetfulness and wrongdoing
 and the universe doesn't give a damn
 or they come about because of
 the generous, creative overflow of the Godhead.
 For that positive Divine Generosity Plotinus used
 the technical Christian term *agape*.
 Doris in her thesis was the first
 to make the original contribution
 of showing the implications of this option
 in the world of Plotinus scholarship.
 Doris saw the generous creativity of *agape*
 as the deepest essence of the divine
 and in her quest for excellence
 she always wanted that to be her deepest essence too.
 Doris' excellence was recognized
 and she was offered a full fellowship
 to do her PhD at the university of Toronto,
 arguably the best philosophy department
 at that time in North America,
 and to study with the great Plotinus scholar, John Rist.
 But in the same spirit of creative adventure
 that brought her as a young lady
 all alone from England to Canada
 to educate and be educated
 in the land of opportunity
 she decided to continue working in
 the Niagara Peninsula with all of her dear friends.

DORIS ALWAYS CULTIVATED WELL ORDERED LOVING PRIORITIES

According to the Platonists and Plotinus
 there is a four-fold value hierarchy
 and true love has to do with getting
 our preferences and priorities just right concerning
 physical, vital, intellectual and spiritual loves.
 Our way of preferring one love over another is another

very important set of dynamics in our pre-conscious life.
 Doris has always been somewhat like Lucy
 in C. S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* for she is
 a personification of agapeic openness to Aslan
 and the spiritual energy of generosity's creative affirmations.
 With Augustine she has always cultivated the right order of love
 so that Peter's affection, Susan's friendship and Edmund's eros
 do not become absolutized and fixated in the demonic.
 Doris grew up with the gift of faith from her parents
 so that agapeic generosity always permeated her
 familial affection, vital friendships and erotic quest.
 With Augustine Doris saw that the difference between
 Plotinus and Jesus is that the word became flesh
 and thus Doris' mission has been to help
 bring about the promise of Luke 3:6:
 "And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."
 The logic of Doris' agapeic attitude has
 directed her priorities with the two great love commands:
 "You shall love the Lord your God
 with your whole heart, mind and soul
 and your neighbor as yourself."
 First, Doris has loved love itself.
 Then she has loved all persons as equal
 and in their own unique singularity.
 Finally she has loved her own preferred
 family, friends and dear ones.
 Doris has always had a great sense of fairness.

DORIS ALWAYS CULTIVATED WELL ORDERED LOVING FEELINGS

At the very epicenter of Doris' loyal, passionate, trembling heart
 were always her mother, father and sister dear.
 They had been through the war, and poverty and heartache together.
 They had shared so many moments of joy and happiness together.
 Once the distance of Canada made her feel her absence from them
 they became more and more present in the clear intonations
 and the vivid envisioning of her ever prayerful heart.
 For years as a teacher she could hardly wait for summer
 when she could once again be with them and care for them.
 And then came Tony into her heart and into her prayer.
 And then Jonathan and Philip and David.
 And the very names, of course, of Jonathan and David
 filled her heart with that greatest story of friendship.
 Jonathan, the gift of God, and David, the beloved of God,
 and right in between them, Philip, that beloved friendship.
 How could there be three more perfect nephews

with three more perfect names?

In the secret dreams of her prayer they seemed to mirror
 The Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit love between them.
 She was the proudest Aunty D in the world.
 And her love radiated out from the epicenter of her family
 in concentric rings to her students and each of her circles of friends.
 And then Philip was taken from them. The Holy Spirit, Philia,
 was torn away from between the gift of God and the beloved of God.
 Her heart was totally broken. She sobbed and wept for her
 poor Catharine and Tony dear and for all of his family.
 Her heart cried for Donna, Philip's wounded and newly wed wife.
 She prayed constantly and all her friends prayed for her.
 She prayed especially for Jonathan and David.
 The logic of her agapeic attitude implied those priorities for her
 that the eternal will retain the temporal and that absence
 will make us aware of a far greater presence
 and that death is but a phase within a larger life.
 And she trusted that Catharine, Tony, Donna, Jonathan,
 David and all of theirs could believe this too.
 And her trust in the trust of all her loved ones
 let her grow constantly in the grace of Philip's phial presence.
 Her attitudes and priorities took her most sorrowful feeling
 into the realm of resurrection glory that our three readings
 prepared her for with Philip and prepare us now for her.

DORIS ALWAYS CULTIVATED WELL ORDERED LOVING THOUGHTS

Doris' excellence had much to do with
 the precision and thoroughness of her thinking
 and the ever increasing awareness of her knowledge.
 She was excellent at avoiding self-deceit and was
 an artist at deceiving others out of their self-deceit.
 She knew that she chose her basic principles
 in an ongoing and ever testing leaping of faith.
 She gambled on a generous, affirmative
 creative spiritual energy as the source of all things.
 She preferred long term over short term values
 even though she loved short term values too.
 She believed that all negative sorrowful passions
 could be converted into joyful positive passions
 even though the sorrow would remain.
 She believed that "All flesh shall see the salvation of God."
 Those reasons of the heart which the mind knows not
 were the basic premises for all the reasoning of her mind.
 The pathos of her passion became her sympathy with others.
 It became her empathy with which she knew the feelings of others.

This became the basis for her moral behavior with others.
 She would treat them as she would want them to treat her.
 David's Psalm 139 is truly a song of her heart.
 It sings of God's presence through all time and in all space.
 It sings of the vastness of God's knowledge of every single being.
 Doris too took knowing seriously and wanted to know
 all she could because with awareness she could serve
 as healer, guide and teacher in each of her communities.
 Doris was by vocation a knowing and ever learning teacher.
 She cared for each young person with such an empathy
 as she would have if she were his or her Auntie D.
 She loved teaching home economics because
 it has to do with the most basic knowledge and skills
 that are necessary in promoting healthy, happy, holy living.

DORIS ALWAYS CULTIVATED WELL ORDERED LOVING WORDS

Doris also believed that getting words just right
 is a most important matter.
 She consciously saw herself as a learner and teacher
 of words in their best intonations and many nuances.
 She was a learner and teacher
 of the liberating words of reading and of listening
 by which we become free to receive others
 and of speaking and writing by which
 we become free to express ourselves to others.
 Doris was an excellent practitioner
 of all four of these liberating arts
 and thus was a true lady who could be open
 in hospitality and service to any she met.
 She believed that true liberation could come
 from the word made flesh
 and from the bread made flesh
 and thus her fondness for John 6:35-40.
 She believed in her teacher's words:
 "She who comes to me will never be hungry.
 She who believes in me will never thirst...
 Yes it is my Father's will
 that whoever sees the Son and believes in him
 shall have eternal life and I shall raise her up on the last day."
 Doris, in being true to her vocation,
 always learned and taught the liberating word.

DORIS ALWAYS CULTIVATED WELL ORDERED LOVING DEEDS

With her conscious thoughts and words

Doris sought ever to cultivate
 her attitudes, priorities and feelings
 so that she could dream the dreams she wanted
 and always have the feelings of love on demand
 and always act in the way she thought most fitting.
 Most of all Doris was a person of action.
 She knew that more than anything we are our deeds.
 "By their fruits you shall know them."
 Doris spent her life performing the works of love for others.
 In the Port Colborne teachers' Association,
 in the University Women's Club,
 in the Brock Philosophical Society
 and in her St. David's Church Community
 Doris worked on many committees and projects.
 She loved taking learning trips, attending concerts,
 going to plays, visiting art museums, playing bridge,
 going out to dinner and having fun
 with her dear friends from each of her communities.
 She worked and played in order to bring about
 the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.
 There is no doubt that one of Doris' favorite odes
 is St. Paul's Rhapsody to Love in I Corinthians 13.
 She always sought to let her works of love be kind and patient.
 She worked at being never jealous, boastful nor conceited.
 She tried never to be resentful nor to take offence.
 She was always ready to excuse, to trust,
 to hope and to endure whatever comes.

And so Ladies and Gentlemen,
 we are here to express our love for Doris
 and to receive Doris' love for each of us.
 Catharine and Tony,
 Jonathan, Naomi, Esther, Rachel and Simon
 Donna,
 David, Emma, Zac, Amy and Annabelle,
 Doris is no longer separated from Philip.
 She is no longer separated from
 any of her loved ones,
 from her parents dear,
 from Evelyn and Valerie.
 Doris we know that you are looking down upon us.
 You know that we are looking up in love to you.

Doris, please pray for us
 As we pray for you. Amen.