

Reply to Lucy A. McGinley

Date: 4-16-15

Subject: Milette's Memorial Celebration

Dear Lucy,

Thank you for your kind words about Lorna's delivery of the eulogy which I wrote for Milette. It reminded me that there are some details about Milette's memorial service which have not yet been expressed generally and I would like to add a few of them here.

As Lorna and I and others planned a memorial service for Milette, I tried to think of what I could do here in Virginia. I reflected on the fact that someone very important to me had passed away. I wanted to do something to express my appreciation for Milette's friendship and for her profound spiritual contribution to my life and to our Maryknoll Class of 1968.

With that impulse, I wrote a eulogy for her. As a visual companion piece to the written tribute, I created a collage of pictures and writings of Milette which I had custom-framed at a local art shop here in Virginia. Lorna and her husband Raul thoughtfully purchased an easel so that the picture could be displayed at the church during the Mass. Lorna subsequently presented the collage, on behalf of Marvin and me, to the Estrada family at the lunch which followed the memorial service. The written and pictorial components of my tribute are brought together in a website that I commissioned and launched on March 23 in conjunction with Milette's Memorial Day. It is being sent to all members of the class and I am updating it every month with new material about Milette. I hope that it will be a catalyst for classmates to communicate and reconnect with each other and to keep Milette's spirit alive. I love Milette and she will always be my dear companion, in time and in eternity.

I appreciate you and your husband Patrick, and Esther and Owen Parker, for staying through to the end of the day's events, with Lorna and Raul, to complete the last part of the program, which was held at Milette's graveside. I thought it was the most intimate part of the day and it brought me to tears. Thanks to you and our other classmates who sponsored this Memorial Day, we were able to bid a collective farewell to our dear classmate. ...

Hugs to you for now, thanks for touching base and let's keep in touch,
Lynne