

Ode to Bernadette (Letendre) Glotzbach
by Sister Pr scille Malo

This is all about a special person who I believe is a saint and a person God loved so much that He wanted her to go home with him.

A devoted daughter, mother, wife, teacher, colleague, sibling, she emulated all that was good in life.

She was faithful to her God and to her call in life, and we were blessed to have known her.

I, for one, think God took her too soon, but I think He loved her so much He wanted her home with him.

She definitely was not an up front, waving "I'm here, everyone notice me," kind of person. She was a behind the scenes, "whatever you need, I am here" kind of person.

Just like the Blessed Virgin, "yes" was her only response. She did not know the answer, "no."

I could have told her that if she didn't stop the total sense of giving, some day she would be called back to the Lord and Lover of us all.

I could have told her that if she didn't stop caring about her students more than she cared about herself; if she didn't stop spending extra hours preparing classes to make them interesting, enlivening, and provocative learning situations; if she didn't stop giving of herself on project after project and never said no, serving, going to bat for the underdog, helping and helping and helping; if she didn't stop all this, I could have warned her, that she would be called back to the Lord and Lover of us all.

Would she have listened? No.

Stubborn and persistent as she was, she went right on doing what she always had.

She went right on seeing each student as an individual with special needs that she tried to meet; she went right on taking extra time to see to it that each student learned and was helped; she went right on supporting sports and the athletic association; she went right on keeping the computer room open when I distinctly told her to close it; she kept right on saying yes to everyone and anyone who needed her services; she kept right on videotaping and videotaping and spending endless hours splicing and putting programs together. Yes, she kept giving of herself even when she was tired, exhausted, and the situation seemed all but hopeless. I could have told her that the Lord and Lover of us all would want such a special person with Him.

Not one to complain, she dealt with stress and carried the heavy burdens. She smiled when she felt like screaming, sang when she felt like crying. She cried when she was happy and who of us does not know her contagious laughter? Her love was unconditional. There was only one thing wrong with her: she forgot what she was worth.

Yes, my friends, Bernie Glotzbach went right on being a twenty-four hour wife, mother, daughter, sister, teacher, coach, friend, a person whose day did not end with the final bell, whose work week did not end on Friday afternoon, whose commitment to the ideals of her profession did not end with the marking period or the term of the school year.

She remained true to the ideals she set for herself as a young student at SJA. She paid her way through college while working a night job. She was a self-taught musician, an IT and computer teacher any school would cherish. Her loyalty to God, family, friends, and acquaintances is “gold” if you were lucky enough to have her in your life.

It was inevitable, that such a life would lead her back to the Lord and Lover of us all.

In the final analysis, she was a dynamic and dedicated person, loved by her family, students, and admired and respected by her colleagues. We thank God that Bernie Glotzbach was an integral part of our lives. We

thank her for being generous enough to care; for being sincere enough to be dedicated; for being a true professional in every sense of the word; and for modeling a faith in God that was formidable.

We now give her back to the Lord and Lover of us all. May she enjoy the rewards of a life well lived.