



*In Loving
Memory
of*

Theresa Murphy

Sunrise
December 10, 1925

Sunset
October 29, 2020

Service:
Saturday, November 7, 2020 - 10:00 am

St. Francis of Rome Catholic Church
4307 Barnes Avenue, The Bronx, NY10466
Father Francis Oroffa, Officiating

Interment
Ferncliff Cemetery, Hartsdale, New York

Obituary

On December 10, 1925, Julia Gibson gave birth to her third child, a girl, and named her Theresa. She grew up with her two sisters, our aunts, Winnifred and Bridgette.

Our mothers' life was very simple, yet complex, as everyone else's. She grew up in Kingston Jamaica, educated there and later met her husband, Leonard Murphy, an army man, and together had Leonard, Jabels, Rupert, Jacqueline, Delores (and her twin who died shortly after birth) and Francis. After the death of her husband, she later met Aston and together they had her last child, Michael.

There was one thing that drove Theresa, and that was to be the best provider for her children. She did all that she could to provide the best education for all her children, and for that alone, she excelled as a mother. She was hard in her discipline, sometimes harsh, but always with a view to make her children better. She never did anything with malice, but struggled to be the best mother she could within the context of her generation. This often meant that she seemed to be a little distant in her affection, but that was on the outside.

I remember once at a family function, as the last child having the luxury as an adult man laying my head in the lap of one of my sisters while our my mother looked on. I remember her looking at us and saying, "I don't know where you children get this touchy feely thing from". We laughed. That doesn't mean she never showed affection; she just did it her way.

The other thing that drove our mother was the most important of all, her faith. If our mother is to be remembered for anything, it must be for her unwavering trust and faith in her God. This faith also meant that she looked out for and looked after those about her. Not only did she look after her biological family, but she also looked after the family that she believed God gave her. This was her family of humanity, all people. In a day when there is so much division among us, Theresa stands as an example of the right way to live.

She worked as a poll worker in seeing to free and fair elections; she worked in the soup kitchen to feed the hungry; she took time to cook

for those who had no food. Again I remember her on Sundays in Jamaica cooking not only for her household, but also made enough to feed those who lived at Riverton City, the city garbage dump in Kingston. I remember her not only cooking, but packaging and taking these meals on Sunday afternoons to feed and spend time with these people.

Sacrificing for people was not difficult for her. She sacrificed for us, her family by blood; yet spared no effort in also sacrificing for anyone who needed her help.

Our mother had good friends who stood with her through life, and she stood with them. Another mark of her faithfulness.

As she grew older, we asked her when she was 89, what she wanted for her 90th birthday. She didn't think too long. Her request, a big party with all her family and friends. We thought it interesting, but we complied. That was a night. Dressed to the nine, she laughed and danced and had a wonderful time with those she wanted about her.

Three days later she fell ill and struggled for the next years of her life. She often asked me in despair what did she do to deserve this, but like Job, she never dwelt on that. Rather, she always bounced back and thanked God for a good life and for her family that remained faithful to her.

To the end Theresa remained faithful to God. In the end, that is all that is important. She will be remembered for her faithfulness, her determination, her strength, and for us her children, she will be remembered for the way she showed gratitude for all we did to and for her when she could no longer do it for herself.

May her faithfulness now be rewarded as she hears her God now say to her: Theresa my daughter; well done my good and faithful servant. Come now and enter into the Kingdom prepared for you.

Theresa is survived and loved by all her children, grand and great grandchildren; niece, grand- nieces and grand-nephew, great grand-nieces and grand-nephew.

Mama, thank you for loving us and being faithful to us. Go now and enjoy your rest. Until we meet again. Love you.

Order of Service

Initial Rites

Rites at the Church Entrance - "On Eagles Wings"
Opening Hymn - "For All the Saints"
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading - Job 19: 1, 23-27
Responsorial - Psalm 23
Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57
Verse before the Gospel

Gospel Reading - John 14:1-6

Homily
Prayer of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation Hymn / Procession with the Gifts
Eucharistic Prayer
Communion Rites / Communion Hymn "I Am The Bread Of Life"
Post-Communion Prayer

Final Rites

Commendation
Closing Hymn "How Great Thou Art"

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

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