

Remarks at the Memorial Service for Donna Quinn
Mary E. Hunt
Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021
Chicago Ridge, Illinois

Thank you to the Sinsinawa Dominicans for your hospitality. My sympathy is with you on your loss of Donna Quinn

Thanks to Chicago Catholic Women for the preparation of this memorial service.

I am Mary E. Hunt, co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER) in Silver Spring, Maryland. I am a longtime friend and colleague of Donna's. I mourn her passing. I bring greetings from many members and friends of the Women-Church Convergence who are with us in spirit today.

We all knew the same Donna Quinn: single-minded for justice, ahead of her time on the issues, dedicated to the well-being of women and children, Irish Catholic to her core. If she were here in body today she would be insisting to me that "this gathering is Eucharist, isn't it Mary?" Yes, of course it is, Donna, as people come together to give thanks.

As Ann Halloran expressed so beautifully at the Sinsinawa prayer service, Donna was a challenging person. Ann said that the community was pressured by patriarchal church officials to dismiss Donna. To their eternal credit, the Sinsinawa Dominicans never did. By the same token, I am sure that Donna felt like leaving the community on more than one occasion. Yet she stayed with the community. The whole story is an instructive case study in feminist, sisterly fidelity.

Today we celebrate the resurrected Donna Quinn. Now there is a new concept!

We see shades of Donna in Catholic women who engage in ministry which Donna supported from the early 1970's before it was as obvious and accepted as it is now. The resurrected Donna is reflected in every young girl who speaks up rather than acquiesce to male power. Donna is present in Catholic LGBTQ+ young people whose self-worth is bolstered because Donna picketed and lobbied for human rights. Donna's newly inspirited life touches every woman who accesses safe, legal, medically necessary reproductive health care because a publicly pro-choice Donna had the courage to be a Catholic presence in the Illinois Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and on the front lines of an abortion clinic. Finally, the resurrected Donna Quinn lives in the hearts of young Dominican sisters and their friends who will complete the good work she began in ways we can scarcely imagine today.

The resurrected Donna Quinn invites each of us to live such that we leave equally rich legacies when we transform into our resurrected selves.

Thank you Donna, and loads of love.