

In Memory— Judy Barrett



Excerpts from remarks given by family friend, Bill Rabior, at Judy's funeral

When Mike asked me to share a few thoughts about Judy, for a moment I was stumped. There is, after all, so much to say about Judy Barrett. She did a lot of things in her 60 years. She wore many hats, played many roles.

But today, as we gather to lay her to rest, I just want to highlight the one role she lived out to perfection, and that is the role of friend. To so many of us here this morning and to many not here, Judy was a friend. Our friend. Our very good friend.

Speaking for myself, she was among the very best friends I've had in life. The Book of Sirach states that a faithful friend is a sturdy shelter. When you find one, you find a treasure.

Right to the very end of Judy's life, friends kept coming to their home. Back in October, when we all thought she was dying, over 60 friends came to the hospital in Owosso to bid her goodbye.

Judy was absolutely loyal to her friends. She never gave up on us, never judged us or was critical of us. She was always open, loving and accepting. When you became her friend, that friendship was for life. She and Mike created a warm, inviting home where

everyone was welcome. They were always quick to pour a drink, set an extra plate and, if necessary, make a bed available for the night. Many of us drank of the cup of kindness in their home. Judy and Mike made a guest feel like their home was his or her home. Having a friend like Judy was no small privilege. In John's Gospel at the Last Supper, Jesus makes it a point to call his followers his friends. Judy called us her friends, and it was an honor to be that. It was a deep honor to be her friend.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter. When you find one, you find a treasure. Judy, dear friend, we found a lasting treasure in you. Until we see you again in heaven, rest in peace old friend. Know that we love you and that we always will.

By Marv Robertson

Judy and Mike were in our ordination class of 1990. Judy was a faithful attendee for the majority of our Saturday classes. She had an infectious smile and laugh that was contagious. She was good medicine for folks like me who grumpily rubbed the "sleep" from our eyes, while longing for a Saturday morning "sleep in" instead of our class. When some of the classes began to drag a bit, Judy would invariably shake things with an interesting or challenging comment or question.

Judy could still smile at us from her hospital bed at Beaumont Hospital at the onset of her cancer. When Tita and I saw her a few years later at Holy Family Parish in Ovid, Judy's cheerful face with sparkling eyes greeted us from her wheelchair.

Judy personified this spiritual counsel from Fr. Bernard Haring: "Use your time and imagination to keep calling to mind some of our many reasons to rejoice in spite of everything and let others see a cheerful face for the Lord."

Judy, may you rest in the peace of the Lord!



"My life has been very rich, full, and blessed by God in many ways. There have been many wonderful people who have touched and enriched my life. God bless you all until we meet again." - Judy