

A REFLECTION

The deeper I entered into my own grief, the more I became aware that something new was about to be born, something that I had not known before. I began to wonder if Jesus does not send his Spirit every time someone with whom we are connected by bonds of love leaves us

To forget mother would be like forbidding her to send the Spirit to me, refusing to let her lift me up to a new level of insight and understanding of my life. I started to feel the power of Jesus words: It is for your own good that I am going because unless I go, the Advocate (the Spirit) will not come to you; but if I do go, I will send him to you.

To remember her does not mean telling her story over and over again to my friends, nor does it mean pictures on the wall or a stone on her grave; it does not even mean constantly thinking about her. No. It means making her a participant in God's ongoing work of redemption by allowing her to dispel in me a little more of my darkness and lead me a little closer to the light. In these weeks of mourning she died in me more and more every day, making it impossible to cling to her as my mother. Yet by letting her go I did not lose her. Rather, I found she is closer to me than ever. In and through the Spirit of Christ, she indeed is becoming a part of my very being.

- *Father Henri J.M. Nouwen, reflecting on the death of his mother in the book In Memoriam*



All Souls ★ All Saints

**Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.**

-Psalms 116

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**We lift up in prayer our Sisters and Brothers
who have gone to Light and Happiness
and an endless Home with God.**

October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011

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