

Excerpts from Alumnae Liturgy - Assisi Heights

By Sister Ingrid Peterson OSF '57

This centennial celebration of the College of Saint Teresa calls us to re-examine the roots of our human lives. We are a community of memory and spirit. Our church is founded on the memory of Jesus and sent on a mission through the power of the Spirit. As a Christian community we are pledged to keep alive the memory of Jesus. As Teresans we pledged to build our lives on the values of Saints Francis and Teresa. Their memories keep us from spiritual experiences that might detach us from the historical roots of the community.

Jesus compared himself to a grapevine and explained the meaning of this allegory. He is the true vine and we are the branches that can bear fruit only if we are grafted onto him. As a people of faith, we are the vineyards of Jesus' parable.

As Teresans we experienced the importance of relationships and learned about the effort necessary to follow Jesus' command to love one another, even those we were not necessarily drawn to, those who seemed most difficult to love, and those who were different than ourselves. As Saint Francis taught, it's more by example than by word. In the long haul, our major learning at Saint Teresa's was not from the books, but from the lives of those we encountered there.

Sister Ingrid taught at CST and has written articles and books about Franciscanism.