



**Sr Irene McCormack and Companions**  
**20th Anniversary**  
**May 21st 2011**

*“I tell you truly, unless a grain of wheat  
falls into the earth and dies  
it remains just a single grain;  
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

*Jn.12:24*

**Reflection**

Like very small seeds in the hand of the poor  
Like the wheat that germinates in the darkness of the night  
Your kingdom in our hand stirs our spirit  
And carries us along the way of struggles and hopes

Your voice is our song, your call is the word  
That beats in the burning heart of your people  
Creators of the story, witnesses of your kingdom

**Reading: Luke 6: 17, 20-26 The Beatitudes**

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,  
and when they exclude you, revile you,  
and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,  
for surely your reward is great in heaven;  
for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,  
for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Jesus came that all people may have life and life in abundance. So, if in Christian terms we speak of martyrdom, we must at the same time be conscious that holiness, self-giving, solidarity and justice are questions of life and death.

We could say that the spirituality of Sister Irene was the search for love, fraternity, of life, not martyrdom. The martyr doesn't look for death but finds it. God doesn't call us to be martyrs but to be saints. God asks that we may care for life, all life.

Editorial in *Signos*, Lima, June 1991

*Let us pause to reflect on how this reading speaks to us today.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray

- + That leaders of nations may act with justice and care for all their people....  
**All God of Life draw us to yourself**
- + For women, men and children who suffer and die in times of civil unrest....  
**All God of Life draw us to yourself**
- + For all who suffer hunger and homelessness that people of faith may offer them hope....  
**All God of Life draw us to yourself**
- + That the Church may live and proclaim Jesus in a way that is coherent and all-embracing....  
**All God of Life draw us to yourself**

*Invitation to add prayers*

## Prayer

Our Good God who delights in people and lives among us, grant that we may live in such a way that our hearts may dance for joy in your kingdom now and forever.  
Amen

### From 1Cor 13:1-8

**Antiphon Faith, hope and love abide, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.**

Love is understanding  
Love is service  
Love is not jealous  
nor does it look for evil

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Love isn't irritable  
Love is never discourteous  
Love is never selfish  
Love is never unjust

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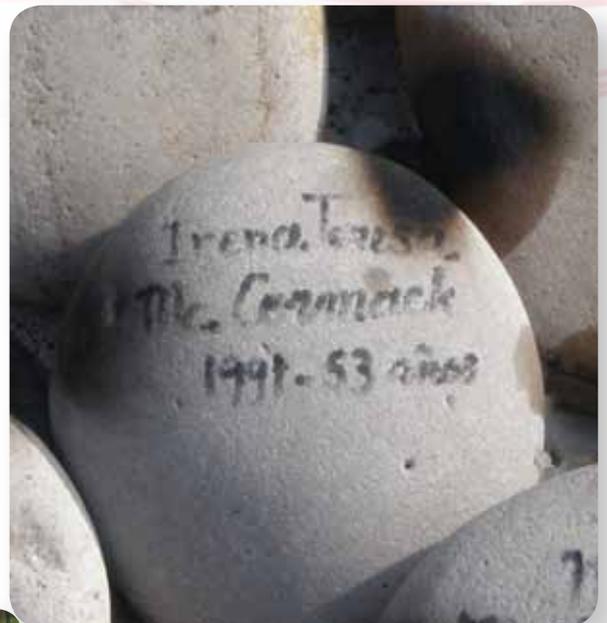
Love blames no one  
Love is kind  
Love doesn't rejoice in hurt  
It only rejoices in truth

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Love bears all, believes all  
Love hopes for all  
And is always faithful

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**Antiphon Faith, hope and love abide, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.**



The "Eye that Cries" is a labyrinth in Lima made up of stones, each commemorating the life of a person who was killed during the recent decades of terrorism and violence of the Shining Path and the Peru Government forces. Irene's stone was written on by Sister Juanita Scari rsj.

## Hymn      Lord of the dance

We remember Irene as a dancer flowing with energy and joy.

Sing together

### The Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was young  
I danced in the moon, and the stars, and the sun  
I came down from Heaven and I danced on the Earth  
At Bethlehem I had my birth

Dance, then, wherever you may be  
I am the lord of the dance said he  
And I lead you all wherever you may be  
And I lead you all in the dance said he

I danced for the Pharoah and the pharisees  
They wouldn't dance, they wouldn't follow me  
I danced for the fishermen James and John  
They came with me so the dance went on

Dance, then, wherever you may be  
I am the lord of the dance said he  
And I lead you all wherever you may be  
And I lead you all in the dance said he

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame  
The holy people said it was a shame  
They ripped me and they stripped me and they hung me high  
Left me there on the cross to die

Dance, then, wherever you may be  
I am the lord of the dance said he  
And I lead you all wherever you may be  
And I lead you all in the dance said he

I danced on a Friday when the world turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back  
They buried my body; they thought I was gone  
But I am the dance, and the dance goes on

Dance, then, wherever you may be  
I am the lord of the dance said he  
And I lead you all wherever you may be  
And I lead you all in the dance said he .

Sydney Carter, 1967.

