

Spring 2010

Dear Friends,

Where should this letter begin? It begins, as it should, with gratitude. There are no words that can adequately express the gratitude that we feel for your continued and ongoing support. There are no words to express the depth of gratitude that we feel for having been blessed with Barbara's grace and love. And there are no words that can adequately express the countless ways that she is missed here and felt here at Martins everyday. We have received many letters from people offering sweet words of comfort and condolence. Thank you. We'd like to share a few words sent to us by Fr. Jim Hagan, who helped midwife the birth of Martins many years ago.

*Inspiration exists in people. Barbara above all else had the ability to inspire, uplift, console, commiserate with and challenge those around her. These are the virtues of hospitality in its ideal form but were an actual way of life for her. Not many people can embody and transmit them. The very few that can make us all better.*

*I believe that the only sacred depository that we have is memory. Prisoners of conscience can have everything taken for them. But that which is most dear, we store in the center of our being. It exists as a seed which Oscar Romero called "a seed of liberation for my people". May we have the grace and courage to liberate and not mourn, to enliven and not let die.*

Martins is a testament to Barbara's love and work and we carry on.

Breakfast, lunch, cooking, sweeping, washing dishes, listening, meeting, praying, not praying, providing information and referral, visiting the sick, corporal and spiritual works of mercy and compassion, holding each other dear. Being human. Making mistakes. Trying again.

Where should this letter end? It ends in gratitude. We remain humbly grateful for your presence in our lives.

With Love,

The Martin's Community