

Gaetano (Tom) Di Francesco

*God saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be.
He closed His arms around you
And whispered, "Come to Me."
In tears we saw you sinking
We watched you fade away.
Our heart were almost broken
You fought so hard to stay.
But when we saw you sleeping
So peacefully free from pain,
We could not wish you back
To suffer so again.
So keep Your arms around him,
Lord, and give him special care
Make up for all he suffered,
And all that seemed unfair.*

*Our family wishes to express our heartfelt
appreciation and thanks for the love, friendship
and support given by everyone.*



*Programs provided by
St. Monica Parish community.*

Funeral Mass for Gaetano (Tom) Di Francesco



August 28, 1923 - August 28, 2014

*September 1, 2014
St. Monica Church
Dallas, Texas*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

In the waters of Baptism, Tom died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May he now share with him eternal glory.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

On Eagle's Wings

Song # 690

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who have set a limit to this present life, so as to open up an entry into eternity, we humbly beseech you, that by the grace of your mercy you may command the name of your servant Tom to be inscribed in the book of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces;

the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,

I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,

I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,

you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,

my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Though I should wander the valley of death,

I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff,

my comfort and my hope.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,

crowning me with love beyond my power to hold.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore.

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.



SECOND READING

II Corinthians 4:14-5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

John 11:17-27

HOMILY

Fr. Stephen W. Bierschenk

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN

Amazing Grace

Song # 650

COMMUNION HYMN

Ave Maria

PRAYERS OF FINAL COMMENDATION

Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother. May our farewell express our affection for him; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

Saints of God, come to his aid! Hasten to meet him, angels of the Lord.

Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself; May angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.

Into your hands, Father of mercies, we commend our brother Tom, in the sure and certain hope that, together with all who have died in Christ, he will rise with him on the last day. We give you thanks for the blessings which you bestowed upon Tom in this life; they are a sign to us of your goodness and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.

Merciful Lord, turn toward us and listen to our prayers: open the gates of paradise to your servant and help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with you and with our brother forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

How Great Thou Art

Song # 578