

A Tribute to My Husband Joseph Agoglia

From Claudia Agoglia

Thanksgiving 2003

I would like to share my thoughts about my husband, Joseph, who went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, July 17, 2003. He was a very faithful and honorable servant of the Lord. He was a strong spiritual leader, a man of faith and of strong character.

Joe accepted the Lord as his Lord and Savior in 1977. I considered Joe to be like a Joshua. He was courageous and strong in the face of difficult conditions; he stood strong in what he believed God called him to do. He did not fear times of trials but trusted God. He was a man of the highest integrity and stood for truth and honesty because of his faith in God through the years.

His life honored God, his wife and sons, nieces and nephews, and countless individuals. I will always remain grateful to God for giving me a husband of such integrity and character.

We met our 1st year in college at St. John's University. Right after he graduated in 1967, he enlisted in the US Coast Guard reserves. We were married on April 21, 1968.

Joe knew what was most important in his life: to first love and obey God, and second, to truly care for people. I know so well how Joe would arise early each morning at about 5 a.m. and take time to be alone with his heavenly father. He spent time reading the Word and communicated with him daily in prayer.

He was a prayer warrior. He prayed for his family and many others daily. He had a long list of specific prayer requests that he read by name. This was the way he prepared for each day. These names and prayer requests were written on large index cards and kept in his Bible for over twenty years. And they were often updated every few months.

Joe was a man who took his life with God seriously. Because Joe was a very wise man, his priorities were God's priorities and, because he remained daily in God's word, this brought him much wisdom. I am proud to have had a husband who read and studied God's Word day and night and prayed for many people.

Wherever Joe went, he brought a joyful smile, shared a warm hug, or a firm handshake, followed by a word of encouragement. Many will continue to remember his heart of love, his kindness, and unselfish attitude. No one more than his wife could ever know how selfless Joe lived his life. He had a servant's heart to care for others and he even had a burden to preserve the unborn. It was because of this concern that he worked closely with a crises pregnancy center.

I'm grateful to Joe for the way he provided for our family. Each day he went out of his way to be there for each of us. He was a faithful husband to me and a model father and mentor to the boys.

My sorrow and loss of his fellowship and companionship is insurmountable. The memories the boys and I have shared with Joe will remain with us forever. I am comforted by the knowledge that Joe now resides in the Kingdom of Heaven, rejoicing with God and his heavenly angels. He has no pain, no sorrow, no grief, and his joy is unspeakable as he is in the continual presence of our Holy God. I am thankful that he is within God's safekeeping and that his life in Christ is settled forever in heaven.

On this occasion of Thanksgiving 2003, I am so thankful to God for giving me a husband like Joe who has been as caring and genuine as he was for me. I am grateful that he was in my life for the last 40 years and it is my prayer that our family may continue to live as Jesus wants us to live and, that Joe's life will continue in our son's lives.

I believe that Jesus truly understands our trials and times of suffering and disappointment; for He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was obedient and learned obedience through the things he suffered.

The events surrounding Joe's passing have taught me many things. I am assured more than ever before that God truly knows every detail of our lives; that He is with us constantly; that He loves to answer our prayers; that He is our Comforter; that He is merciful, loving and compassionate; that we need to fine-tune ourselves each day to the Holy Spirit; that too often I am ungrateful instead of trusting and being thankful. I need to continue to grow in these areas.

I don't know why this all happened, but I understand that there are mysteries of life we cannot understand; and God holds the keys to unlocking these mysteries. Still, I trust in the One who holds Joe's life and mine in his hands. Thankfully, I know that I will meet up with him shortly.

I know without a shadow of a doubt that when Joe went home to be with the Lord, he was **absolutely spiritually ready** to meet Jesus face to face and to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Joshua 1:7-9 (one of Joe's favorite passages)

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night so that you may be successful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.