

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not
so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it
is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

St. Francis

*Death is nothing at all—
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name,
speak to me in the easy way you always used to.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without
effort.
Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is absolutely
unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of your mind because I am out of your
sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, around the corner.
All is well. Nothing is past; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before—only better, infinitely happier and
forever—we will be all one together with Christ.*

DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME, FOR NOW I'M FREE;
I'M FOLLOWING THE PATH GOD LAID FOR ME.
I TOOK HIS HAND WHEN I HEARD HIM CALL;
I TURNED MY BACK AND LEFT IT ALL.

IF MY PARTING HAS LEFT A VOID,
THEN FILL IT WITH REMEMBERED JOY.
A FRIENDSHIP SHARED, A LAUGH, A KISS;
AH YES, THESE THINGS, I TOO, WILL MISS.

BE NOT BURDENED WITH TIMES OF SORROW;
I WISH YOU THE SUNSHINE OF TOMORROW.
MY LIFE'S BEEN FULL, I SAVORED MUCH;
GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD TIMES, A LOVED ONE'S TOUCH.

LIFT UP YOUR HEART AND SHARE WITH ME;
GOD WANTED ME NOW, HE SET ME FREE.

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Do Not Stand at my Grave and Weep

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.*

*I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.*

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die!*

God's Promise

*God didn't promise
Days without pain,
Laughter without sorrow
Or sun without rain.
But God did promise
Strength for the day,
Comfort for the tears
And a light for the way,
And for all who believe
In His kingdom above,
He answers their faith
With everlasting love.*

Do not be afraid or discouraged

for the Lord is the one who goes before you.

He will be with you;

He will be with you and

will neither foil you or forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:8

To be rich in friends is to be poor in nothing.

Lillian Whiting

The time may be delayed,

the manner may be unexpected,

but the answer is sure to come.

Not a tear of sacred sorrow,

not a breath of holy desire,

poured out to God will ever be lost,

but in God's own time and way

will be wafted back again in clouds of mercy,

and fall in showers of blessings on you,

and on those for whom you pray.

- Saint Therese

Family Prayer

Miss Me But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road and
the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little... but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low,
Remember the love that was once shared,*

Miss Me... But Let Me Go.

*For this journey we all must take and
each must go alone.
It's all part of the Master's plan,
a step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick of heart,
go to the friends we know.
Bury your sorrows in doing good deeds,*

Miss Me... But Let Me Go

*Watch Lord,
With those who wake,
Or watch or weep tonight.
And give your angels watch
over those who sleep.
Tend to your sick ones, O Lord
Rest your weary ones,
Bless your dying ones;
Soothe your suffering ones,
Pity your afflicted ones.
Shield your joyous ones,
And all for your love's sake.*

St. Augustine

God made us a family

We need one another

We love one another

We forgive one another

We work together

We play together

We worship together

Together we use God's word

Together we grow in Christ

Together we love all men

Together we serve our God

Together we hope for Heaven

These are our hopes and ideals

Help us to attain them, O God,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes of his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at his footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of his life.

This really bothered him, and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you the most you would leave me.

The Lord replied, "Precious Child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trials and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints it was then that I carried you."

To Those Whom I Love and Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do
You must not tie yourself to me with tears
Be happy that I have had so many years

I gave you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness
I thank you for the love each have shown
But now it is time I traveled on alone

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
It is only for a while that we must part
So bless the memories in your heart

I will not be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come

Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be
near
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear
All of my love around you soft and clear

Then, when you must come this way alone
I will greet you with a smile and a Welcome
Home

-Mary Alice Ramish-

Memories Build a Special Bridge

(Emily Matthews)

Our memories build a special bridge
when loved ones have to part
to help us feel we're with them still
and sooth a grieving heart.
Our memories span the years we shared,
preserving ties that bind,
They build a special bridge of love
and bring us peace of mind.

*I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
And bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
To dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave
When my life here is done.*