

*Eucharistic Liturgy Reflection for Oct. 5, 2018
The Death Anniversary of Mother Clara Pfänder*

Created and Offered by Georgene L. Wilson, OSF

Greetings of Peace and Goodness!

Today we gather to remember the "Transitus of M. Clara" just as we gathered yesterday to remember the "Transitus of Francis of Assisi".

**We remember the moment and the story
... of the breath of our loved ones,
... of their surrendering movement of return
into Deepest Oneness with God,
the same God who sources all our breaths.**

Our second reading today, taken from M. Aristilde Flake's biography of M. Clara, *LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS*, remembers this story for us. Listen to it again with all the attention that you can give to it.

The Transitus of M. Clara:

"For a long time Mother M. Clara had been suffering from a weak heart. What hardships and agitation, what material need and suffering had she not had to cope with during 'her' last years! Still she remained true to God and her vocation. Neither denunciations nor lies could cause her to swerve from her goal: 'to become holy'. But now her strength was drained. She wanted to leave herself solely to God's providence....."

"..... From envelopes that were found among the papers in the Campo Santo Teutonico, one learns that Mother M. Clara changed her Rome residence one more time 'before her final days'....."

"..... On 'the' plaque fastened to the façade of 'her last home' at 149 Via Sistina, Rome, Italy there was then, and still is today, a saying:

WHEN IN A SHORT TIME WE LEAVE THIS HOUSE THAT OTHERS' HANDS HAVE BUILT FOR US, WE SHALL ENTER AN EVERLASTING HOUSE THAT WE HAVE BUILT WITH OUR OWN HANDS.

"Did Mother M. Clara have a premonition of how soon she would exchange this house for her everlasting home? It is not unlikely, since she was ill and felt weary, and her heart condition was worsening. But she had no fear. Her 'inner house' was ready....."

“Mother M. Clara died in her little apartment cared for by the loyal Sister M. Evangelista on Oct. 5, 1882. A Jesuit priest brought her the last Sacraments and remained with her in her hour of death. Her last words were, “*Come, St. Francis. I am ready.*”

For the rest of this reflection time I want to facilitate you in a spiritual practice in which you can do your own reflections on what the Transitus of M. Clara means for YOU.

- *So, I invite you to close your eyes, and in the silence of your own mind ask yourself:
“What of this story of Mother Clara’s dying moments, these moments of her transiting, of her breathing into the Fullness of God, are impressing me, today?”*
- *Think about this in the silence of your mind.*
- *I will sound the bell when reflection time is over.*

Sound the singing bowl after two minutes

- *Now thank God for your mind’s recalling of these reflections. Imagine them dropping into the depths of your heart to be treasured.*

NOW, we will REPEAT THIS PROCESS..... Asking:

- *“What else, of Mother Clara’s Transitus story, speaks to my heart, today?”*

Sound the singing bowl after two minutes

This practice that I have just guided you through is called: A Spiritual Questioning Meditation Practice.

You can use it in many ways:

when you are wondering about something or some relationship in your own life, or when the meaning of some feeling or a dream or even an agitation is bugging you.

It is a way of questioning life and moving the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit from our minds down into our hearts.

*We, who are gathered here to remember M. Clara,
are Heart Women and Men
who are One with M. Clara in our constant transitioning from one now into the
next God given now. We are always in a "transitus" moment!*

May Mother Clara's Wisdom always companion our heart's journey!