

Eulogy for Anne - 21 April 2016

Tony:

Kathy, Peter and I wish to say a few words about our sister Anne. My name is Tony. Anne was the most wonderful sister in many ways, too many to enumerate here and we will not keep you long. The quality she possessed which I would highlight among her other extraordinary qualities was she was wise. She helped me greatly with her wisdom, because I was not right in front when that was given out.

She helped me in many conversations to think about the decision to remain in Apartheid South Africa, or to leave, which was a decision that was encountered by several who are here today, and by Anne. There were so many influences and the ethics were tangled. People said stay and attempt to change society from within. Others said if you stay, you support an evil regime; any support of the economy supported the Apartheid regime. There was family. The conflict was about remaining and giving back service in the land that educated me, but thriving because of being white in a grossly unequal society.

With helping me to think, Anne gave me the gift of peace with my situation.

Kathy:

What can I say about a sister

- **Who** could take a 2 week sickie from school because she didn't want to go to sewing class, and could get away with it because it was so out of character for her?
- **Who** was a champion backyard cricketer.
- **Who** defended my right as a little Taka not to have to face a hard cricket ball in our backyard matchesI got the tennis ball.
- **Who**, as a nine year old, would dress in priestly robes and berate us sinners with homilies of fire and brimstone.
- **Who** was chosen to represent South Africa in a debate against an American student. The topic of the debate was "Is war inevitable? "
- **Who**, as a young and shy woman, stood up in front of the congregation at our wedding and got them to rehearse the hymns so that the ceremony would go beautifully.
- **Who** started a school in the local parish priest's garage in Kliptown, South Africa with 14 children and found herself rapidly inundated with 100 children.
- **Who** vowed to start a hunger strike outside the South African Security Police Headquarters in Johannesburg if I was detained after questioning.
- **Who**, as we stepped off the plane when we first arrived in Australia, asked us which AFL (Football) team we were going to support. She made sure it was Hawthorn.

- **Who**, with the support of the Good Shepherd Sisters made our move to Australia as painless as it could be.
- **Who**, when we were training for the Oxfam walk would relentlessly drive me along even when I begged for a coffee break.....she got me over the line.
- **Who**, in the past few years, had incorporated some of the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh into her life.
- **Who** was always there for the family - through good times and bad, with love and with wise and practical help.

Peter:

What can I say about a sister, who in the first days of 1978, dealt with a raid by the South African security police, who existed to enforce the apartheid system and were searching for me. They turned up at the Good Shepherd Convent in Orange Grove, Johannesburg, where Anne was at the time, apparently believing that the sisters were hiding me. All that they got out of their search was a forceful and emphatic tongue-lashing from Anne.

What can I say about a sister who, left in possession of some papers of mine which would have been of great interest to the security police, made sure that they would not be found. Anticipating another security police raid on their convent, Anne wrapped them up well in plastic bags and buried them. She then planted beans over them which obligingly grew very quickly. The security police never found them and, for all we know, they continue to nourish whatever might now grow in their vicinity.

What can I say about a sister who stood by me when I faced serious charges in South African occupied Namibia and visited me there in prison.

We, her siblings, can say that Anne was a loyal, supportive, courageous, caring and loving sister to us, sometimes in the most trying and difficult of circumstances.

- that we admired and continue to admire her strong sense of justice, her wisdom, her strength and determination, her quiet, quirky sense of humour.

- that Anne was a most wonderful big sister, sister-in-law and aunt.

She loved life, with its ups and downs, its joys and challenges. We will miss her greatly. Her death will leave a huge hole in our lives and, while we celebrate the life she lived, we sorely grieve her passing.