



Introduction to Sister Mary Ellen Tenny's Convocation Address

By Sister Marie Claire Matsinger



Good Afternoon!

"Embracing a Transformative Spirit" . . . brings us here today . . .

Faithful Witness reads:

"The purpose of the Congregation is incorporation into the life of the Trinity"

. . . incorporation . . . being "taken into" - as a "body" as a whole - into something new

. . . into life . . . the ever-changing flow of being - being made new

. . . the Life of the Trinity . . . eternal flow . . . the Word spoken by the Father . . . becoming flesh

. . . self-emptied in Love . . . returning - Fullness of Spirit - back to the Father

. . . this reality - this ongoing cycle of new creation is sheer mystery! sheer gift!

• the only response - the fullness of response - responsible membership - is to "get with the
"program" - get "into the flow"

• "Behold!" - open the eyes of the heart, look around - see what's going on - every minute,
everywhere - all of creation is being made new, each one of us is continually being made new

• "Listen!" to the sounds of new creation . . . the Voice of the One Who continues to call us
into Trinitarian Life!

We gather together here today, as one body of IHMs - to "embrace," to say "yes" to the gift,
the grace, the power of transformation sending us into ever-new-creation as "joyful bearers of
God's Redeeming Love."

Which brings me to why I am here at this mic today . . . it is my privilege to introduce Sister
Mary Ellen for her Convocation Address.

First, I listened to words from the book of Isaiah: "I have called you by name, and you are
mine!"

Then I asked Google for some help - and discovered that the name Mary (which we all share
in one form or another) can mean "one who is loved" or "bitterness" - a seeming paradox on
the surface - yet, profoundly meaningful as each one of us has come to realize that "paying
forward the Love we have been given" always involves suffering. . .

The name "Ellen" is said to mean "God is my Light!"

So - "Mary Ellen" sounds like a God-given name for one

who knows the boundless Love of God,

who depends on the Light of Christ in the darkness, and who walks with us selflessly -

encouraging us to open our hearts to the transforming Spirit of Love.

With deep gratitude for her willingness to share the words God has been speaking in the
depths of her heart, I give the mic over to our sister - Mary Ellen