

# THE FEAST OF SAINT PHOEBE

Virtual Prayer Service | September 3, 2020



St. Phoebe. 2008.

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*In memory of Cynthia "Sam" Bowns  
and in celebration of her diaconal ministry.*

*I commend to you  
Phoebe our sister,  
who is a minister  
(diakonos) of  
the church at  
Cenchreae, that  
you may receive  
her in the Lord in  
a manner worthy  
of the holy ones.*

ST. PAUL  
ROMANS 16:1-2A

Through the intercession of St. Phoebe, we pray for the ministry of deacons, for the papal commission on the female diaconate, and for the church to again receive women as ordained deacons.

According to the Roman Martyrology and Orthodox liturgical calendars, the Feast of St. Phoebe is celebrated on September 3rd. This feast is not yet included in the universal calendar of the Roman Catholic Church, which informs which feast days are celebrated at Mass on that day. We pray for this inclusion, so that Catholics everywhere can learn about and celebrate St. Phoebe, the deacon (*diakonos*) that St. Paul commends in the Letter to the Romans (16:1-2).

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Preparatory Hymn:

*Confitemini Domino*

Taizé

Led by Claire Hitchins

Singer, Composer and Pastoral Minister

Con - fi - té - mi - ni      Dó - mi - no      quó - ni - am—  
Llé - na - nos, Se - ñor,      de tu paz.      Por - que só - lo e - res  
Come and fill our hearts      with your peace.      You a - lone, O Lord, are

bo - nus.      Con - fi - té - mi - ni      Dó - mi - no,      Al - le - lú - ia!  
san - to.      Llé - na - nos, Se - ñor,      de tu paz,      ¡A - le - lu - ya!  
ho - ly.      Come and fill our hearts      with your peace,      Al - le - lu - ia!

*Latin Translation:*

Give praise to the Lord for he is good, Alleluia.

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**Welcome & Introductory Remarks**

**Ellie Hidalgo**

Pastoral Associate, Dolores Mission Church, Los Angeles

**Reflections on St. Phoebe & Invocation**

**Sr. Donna Ciangio, O.P.**

Chancellor, Archdiocese of Newark

**Proclamation of the Word** *Romans 16: 1-7, 15-16*

**Barbara Guerin**

Chief Information Security Officer and Doctor of Ministry

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Introduction of the Witnesses

Ellie Hidalgo

Witnesses

Kayla August

Rector of Lyons Hall, Office of Residential Life,  
University of Notre Dame

Rose Lue

Advanced Lay Leader, Spiritual Director, Diocese of San Jose

Maria McGuire

Hospice Chaplain, Spiritual Director, Writer

Lydia Tinajero-Deck

Pediatrician, Lector

Musical Interlude

*Take, O Take Me As I Am*

John L. Bell

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line begins with the lyrics "Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall". The piano accompaniment features a steady 4/4 rhythm with chords in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." and concludes with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949  
Tune: John L. Bell, b.1949  
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## IN MEMORY OF CYNTHIA “SAM” BOWNS

Remarks by Deacon Loren Bowns

*“Loren and I were asked to discern the diaconate as a couple. As we went through the program, I felt a deep understanding of diakonia growing. People in the parish thought I had been ordained with Loren. They recognized me as a deacon. Perhaps it was the spirit of God planting another seed in me. My pastor, on his deathbed, asked that the chrism be passed to me, so that I could anoint him. In the pain of losing him, he left with me an affirmation I have never forgotten. He envisioned me in the role I so desire: deacon. I feel called to a ministry that journeys with folks in a fully committed and sacramental way.”*

CYNTHIA “SAM” BOWNS



**C**ynthia “Sam” Bowns was an amazing woman that mere words cannot adequately capture. She loved her family, friends and faith with a fierceness. Throughout her life, she fought passionately for justice and equity for all people. She was recently recognized among 50 Inspiring Alumni of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, where she earned her Master of Divinity. Sam also received certifications in spiritual direction from the Dominican Sisters of Racine and the Claret Center.

Sam’s journey to the diaconate started as a young teenager when her boyfriend invited her to Mass. She spoke of being acutely aware of the small dust particles suspended in the light shining through the stained glass. She felt the Spirit all around her and realized she had found her Home. Her family, not being Catholic, discouraged her from joining the Church, but the Call never left her. When her youngest daughter was born, she took instruction from Father Joseph Burns and became Catholic. Being the passionate woman she was, Sam immersed herself in the local faith community, serving in any way she could. Her devotion was to food pantries, women’s shelters and

educating others about our Faith, especially the historical ministries of women and the ways they continue to serve our Faith.

Encouraged by the community and Father Joe, Sam enrolled at CTU and caught fire! She was like a kid in the candy store. She couldn’t learn enough or fast enough.

After graduation, Sam continued her many ministries and became active in the movement for women deacons. She shared her story wherever she could, published articles and helped facilitate conferences for women interested in the diaconate. She provided spiritual guidance to women who face many limitations in our Church, and to many men who are now ordained.

While Sam found great joy in serving our Creator, it was a painful journey. She loved her God and her Faith intensely, but was deeply hurt that our Church couldn’t recognize her gifts and the gifts of many others. Sam embraced people and created community wherever she went. She lived her life and strove to be her best self and to make the world a better place. Maybe that is the best definition of diakonia.

Sam was buried in a deacon’s stole.

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## Litany of Deacons

Led by Claire Hitchens

*The names for this litany are drawn from among the female deacon saints in the Orthodox liturgical calendar, male deacon saints in the tradition, and the lists of female deacons compiled by FutureChurch and the Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research.*

## Prayers of the Faithful

Teresa Marie Cariño and Lisa Cathelyn

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

## Testimony from the Amazon

Introduction by Rev. Luke Hansen, S.J.  
Chaplain, Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice,  
Xavier University

Recorded testimony by Leah Casimero  
Wapichan indigenous from Guyana, Educator,  
Participant at the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon

## Announcements

Casey Stanton  
Minister, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,  
Durham, North Carolina

## Closing Remarks & Benediction

Deacon William Ditewig  
Former Executive Director, Secretariat for the Diaconate,  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

### Optional Fellowship in Small Groups After the Closing Song

#### Reflection Questions:

- What moved you in this liturgy?
- Is there anything you learned, or that surprised you?
- What's your sense for how you want to respond to the Spirit's movement?

I have been a - noint - ed with the song of the Lord! A song of  
love and com - pas - sion, a song to set me free! God is my  
rock of sal - va - tion! A bea - con for my soul! Hal - le -  
lu - jah! A - men! Hal - le - lu - jah! A - men! Praise to the  
rock and the well - spring, cre - a - tor of my soul! Oh, soul!

1. *Last time* | 2. *To verse*

Verse

My heart knew dark - ness, My soul was filled with de - spair,  
Life - less and si - lent, no mu - sic an - y -  
where, and then my Lord and com - pan - ion, He filled my wait - ing  
soul: Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! For God has made me whole!

D.C.

Text: Steven C. Warner, b.1954  
Tune: Steven C. Warner, b.1954; arr. by Peter M. Kolar, b.1973  
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