



Butterfly ...

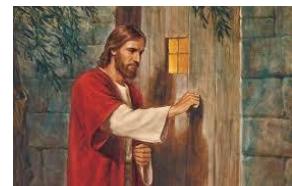
"God wills that all be saved", Mother Eliswa.

Today the Church celebrates the memory of all the faithful departed. In a way it is a moment to remember the mystery of Easter, "As Jesus has risen, so we who believe in him shall rise with him". Few centuries the butterfly has been a symbol of Easter; the stubby little caterpillar reborn in the cocoon as a majestic butterfly is nature's parable of Easter mystery.

Praying for the dear departed is an ancient custom among Christians. To be dead means to be transformed, to enter into newness of life. It is therefore desirable for us to be dead. That is why St. Paul says, "I want very much to leave this life and be with Christ, which is a far better thing" Phil.1/23. The just are under the protection of God. In dying they pass into true peace and into the intimacy of God.

Mother Eliswa prepared herself for this transition based on the Word of God from Rev. 3/20 which comprises - listening, knocking, hearing, opening and eating.

- **Listen** - Mother Eliswa was spiritually attentive and responsive to God's call for a deeper, personal relationship. This attentiveness she had developed from the very age of four as she longed to receive the Holy Communion because Jesus is present in the Holy Communion.
- **"Knocking"** symbolizes Jesus' patient invitation to enter her life for a close, intimate relationship, and it was her decision and choice to open the door. She was alert to the offer of Christ for a totally unique opportunity and mission as manifestation of her passionate love for Him.
- **Hear** – Mother Eliswa personally recognized, understood, and responded to Jesus's persistent call. It was more than just sensing His presence; it involved understanding His message. Like a sheep she recognized her shepherd in the suffering humanity and cared for them with compassion.
- **Open the door** – She allowed Jesus into her life through a conscious and willing choice. It represents her act of faith, and a willingness to have intimate spiritual union with Him, inviting Him to enter and share in fellowship. Jesus waited patiently with her life situation. He did not force his way in, emphasized personal free will and a desire for a mutual relationship. In response Mother Eliswa opened the door of a new way of life for the women in India – a door of women empowerment was opened, a door of compassion for the marginalized was opened, a door of literacy was opened...
- **Eat** – It is the spiritual nourishment which she received through the reception of the Sacraments special mention is of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. She has often instructed her sisters not to be dwarfs while participating in the Holy Eucharist but make spiritual communion many times daily.



On this feast of departed Souls it is apt for us to reflect with Mother Eliswa on Rev. 3/20 and attune ourselves to the movement of God in our lives. Which door do I need to open today for the Lord and His people?

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