

Memorial message for Deora Bodley, 1981-2001

Santa Clara Mission de Asis, Sept. 21, 2001

Paul Locatelli, S.J.

President, Santa Clara University

Deora: Glimpse of the Face of God

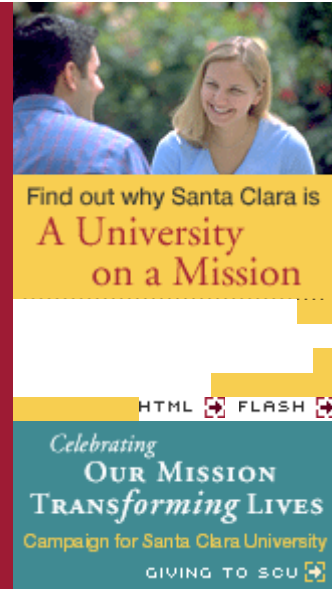
On Sept. 11, the pictures of large airliners plowing into the towers of the World Trade Center seemed surreal. When the evil quickly sunk in, we were horrified by the loss of lives. Our hearts quickly became troubled. And even more deeply when we learned of the loss of Deora who was part of our family.

Her story has been multiplied thousands of times over. So as we mourn her death, we also remember the others and their family and friends. We remember Christopher Duffy who died in New York; he is the brother of Caitlan Duffy an incoming student from New York. And, we remember Navy Captain Lawrence Getzfred, class of 1971, who died at the Pentagon.

We celebrate the gift of life especially of Deora and of the other members of our Santa Clara family, and the more than 6,000 -- who are now fully alive among the communion of saints in a new life with God. They are at peace, beyond evil, suffering, and death itself.

We are the ones still in search of peace. We are the ones left behind who have to make sense of life and death, pain and peace. Distressed and hurt, we search for answers. Let us learn from the story about Jesus and his friends:

Walking toward Jerusalem, Jesus foresees that he would soon die. Stopping along the way, his mood is somber. They don't like the hints that he will



soon leave them. And, we find Jesus more concerned about his friends than his own fate. He gives his friends -- and us -- a new commandment: to love one another as he -- Jesus -- loved them -- and now loves us.

Jesus still teaches us how to love. He called simple people like Peter and Mary Magdalene to be his friends. He helped the rich and powerful like Zacchaeus and the Roman Centurion. He visited the home of Martha and Mary and brought life back to their brother, Lazarus. Whomever he met, Jesus embraced them with love and gave them a sense of belonging. .

He taught us to care for widows and widowers, to heal the sick and to invite the poor and marginalized of society to be our friends. Jesus showed us the face of God when He held and blessed children, just as Deora did. Listen to some of the children of St Clare's:

"Deora is very special.

Deora was a wonderful teacher and role model.

Deora makes the sun brighter.

Deora helped me read.

Deora and I did homework in the library together.

God bless Deora's soul, and those who cared for her.

Deora, all the kids at St. Clare's just love you. We will miss you so much, and we will take care of those kids for you.

Deora is cool."

We see God's face in the generous response of people from around the world. Not letting September 11th fuel our rightful anger, we reach out in love. That is what Deora would want us to

do. She would want courage and grace, generosity and love to dwell in our hearts as we see in her parents, Debby and Derrill. Rephrasing their words, they said:

"What Deora always wanted for everyone was to find heaven on earth, and that there be no language barrier... because....of where you are from, or who you are, or what you do. ... the common language for all is the language of peace.

And.... that we not give in to the terror and the horror and the devastation....because the ultimate goal is peace . . . And peace rooted in justice will bring us closer to the heaven that Deora -- and I add, her parents -- hope to see."

We see the face of God -- in Deora's love for family and friends, in her service to community, in her concern for others, and in her smile and laughter -- as we read in messages in front of the Mission Church.

"You had a wonderful heart and spirit. You were surrounded by a beautiful life and I ask you now to watch over Bridget, your friends, and your family. They need the smiles that you once brought now more than ever. You are in my thoughts and prayers."

"...God now has you in his arms."

"You are away, but you will be loved forever. You will be missed, but remembered fondly. Peace in Christ and on earth is my prayer. God bless what we become through our loss."

With grace-filled hearts, God let others find them in the midst of tragedy:

"God will prevail over this senseless evil."

"Lord, I pray this day that you will be with all the victims and to comfort them. I pray that your hand will be with everyone and keep us from evil. Bring Justice for those responsible for such an evil act. Just please shed your grace and glory upon America, and the world. God bless everyone."

"Faces we never see, people we will never know, but a bond that will last forever...God bless the brave people whose lives ended in an act of hatred."

As the people of this world search for answers, we turn to God asking to transform our troubled hearts into hearts of peace, and to turn those with hearts of stone into human hearts of love. Those with generous hearts of peace and love will make good prevail over evil, and understand that the final word is not hate, but love.

Then will we live as one people – whether we call God Abba, Allah, All-knowing One, Yahweh, or Christ.

I believe the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins saw the glory and goodness of God in people like Deora when he wrote:

"What in God's eyes [s]he is -- Christ. For Christ plays in ten thousand places, lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his... To the Father through the features of men's and [women's] faces."

God has already blessed and embraced Deora. She has shown us his face. Now may God bless and comfort each one of us with peace and hope, faith and love.

Excerpts from remarks of Paul
Locatelli, S.J., President of

Santa Clara University

Upon the dedication of a rose corner and permanent plaque at the Mission Church on September 25, 2002

These four roses are being dedicated to those who lost their lives or were affected by the attack on the United States and the world on September 11, 2001.

The Peach Sunset Celebration rose commemorates Deora Bodley, Santa Clara student, class of 2003, who died when Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania. She was on her way back to Santa Clara. We are pleased that Deora's mother, Debbie Borza, and her father, Derrill Bodley, have joined us today for this ceremony.

The white Pascali rose honors Capt. Lawrence D. Getzfred, USN, class of 1971, killed in the attack on the Pentagon.

The red Mr. Lincoln rose commemorates the relatives and friends of Santa Clara students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We remember especially Christopher Duffy, the older brother of sophomore Caitlin Duffy.

The pink Our Lady of Guadalupe rose honors all others who died or were injured, especially the rescue workers at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

A common tragedy helped us all realize that we were united in vulnerability and also in shared grief. Most Americans did not personally know any of the 3,000 people murdered on September 11, but almost all of us shared a kinship of mourning with the families and friends who had lost loved ones. Naturally, that initial sense of community bound by tragedy and threat has faded somewhat as we recovered and returned to some changed sense of normalcy, but it continues to tell us something about what is important in life,

especially, family and friends.

We learned again two important lessons: the first is the importance of being engaged citizens who seek the common good.

Last year, we saw the community join in harmony which we often take for granted in times of prosperity. We saw a *common good* binding us together, as sisters and brothers across the typical boundaries of race, religion, sexual orientation, age, and national origin.

Our immediate response to tragedy and suffering is to connect with others, to come together in prayer, to reach across ethnic and religious lines to affirm that we are all in this together. Some of the best things in life happen only when we share them in common: conversation, family, friendship, art, education, celebration and ritual. That *common good* is richer and more rewarding than the pursuit of our *private good*. It calls us to tend to the fabric of our society, to the personal and institutional ties that bind us.

An appreciation of the common good should lead us and our leaders to see that the United States can not and should not go it alone in the world. Since our decisions resonate throughout this single moral ecology, we must understand ourselves as citizens of a global community whose decisions shape the world.

The second, more important, lesson is the experience love... love brings us together as community and friends, as family and neighbor.

Love bound families and friends even closer together. And those of us who knew one of the victims or their families reached out with love even when at times, we felt feeble in our efforts.

In the end, it is love that will lead nations to beat their swords into ploughshares, and people to love tenderly and walk together humbly with their God.

In the spirit of Micah, may we hope and pray for a

peace founded on justice and truth, compassion
and love.

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Debbie Borza, mother of Deora Bodley '03 read

from the book of Micah:

In days to come

*the mountain of the Lord's house shall be
established*

as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

and many nations shall come and say,

*"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to
the house of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.*

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between many peoples,

*and shall arbitrate between strong nations far
away;*

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more;

but they shall all sit under their own vines

and under their own fig trees,

and no one shall make them afraid;

for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Some of the best things in life happen only when we share them in common: conversation, family, friendship, art, education, celebration and ritual. That *common good* is richer and more rewarding than the pursuit of our *private good*. It calls us to tend to the fabric of our society, to the personal and institutional ties that bind us.

- *From September 26, 2002 dedication of a rose corner and plaque to honor those lost on September 11, 2001*

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Deora Bodley, 1981-2001
News Image Archive

850 people fill Mission Church today to celebrate the life of Deora Bodley

Family, friends remember SCU junior as loving daughter, caring tutor, best friend

SANTA CLARA, Calif., September 21, 2001 - Hundreds of family, friends, and SCU community members gathered in Mission Santa Clara de Asís today for the memorial service for Deora Bodley. The 20-year old SCU junior was a passenger on the United Airlines that was downed by terrorists on Sept. 11 outside of Pittsburgh.

University President Paul Locatelli, S.J. was the presider of the service, which began at 1 p.m. following a press conference in which the father and mother shared their feelings with local media.

In his remarks Locatelli said, "We see the face of God in Deora's love for family and friends, in her service to the community, in her concern for others, and in her smile and laughter..."

One of the speakers at the service, Kathy Almazol, principal of St. Clare Elementary in Santa Clara, quoted several of the young students who knew Deora best as their reading tutor. According to Almazol, one student said after Sept.11, "There's another angel in heaven."

A choir of approximately 25 students from St. Clare sang "Amazing Grace" during the ceremony.

SCU student Bridget Madell described her former roommate: "She was my rock, my heart, my best

EVENTS

Today at 6:00 PM
Career Management Workshop

Today at 7:00 PM
Men's Basketball

Men's Basketball - Santa Clara vs. Olympic Club (Exb.)

SCU EVENTS



TAKE A VIRTUAL Campus Tour

Take a Virtual Tour of Santa Clara, see the campus and hear from the students about what makes SCU special.

friend -- my everything. She made an impact on so many lives, and the world is a better place because of her."

Both parents, father Derrill Bodley, and mother Deborah Borza, spoke today about their daughter's desire for peace and equality.

Borza said, "Let my daughter's passing be our call: To live our lives in such a way that makes the biggest difference possible in the lives of our fellow man, with no one left out. Let her light shine brightly for all people for all time." Borza, from San Diego, is an employee of Copley Information Services.

Bodley said that his daughter's wish would be to "work to solve the root problems that caused these events: the lack of respect and love by all human beings, the lack of peacefulness within each of us, the lack of sharing equitably and responsibly."

Two songs written and performed by the father were played during the service. Derrill is a music professor at University of the Pacific in Stockton and Sacramento City College.

The Deora Bodley Memorial Book Fund has been established by the University to benefit the elementary school. Contributions can be directed to: SCU - Deora Bodley Memorial Book Fund. Individuals who wish to donate books for elementary-age children can send them to Nancy Myrbeck at the SCU Career Center, and are asked to indicate inside the books that they are being donated in memory of Deora Bodley.

Outside of Mission Church there is a temporary memorial for Deora, displaying messages, pictures, flowers, and candles.

To view the family Web site for Deora, visit <http://swe.californiaschools.net/deora/>.

For more information, contact Kelly Shenefiel in SCU Media Relations at 408-554-5125 or news@scu.edu. Images available at the University

web site news and information pages,
www.scu.edu/news, or via e-mail on request.

Full text of Fr. Locatelli's memorial message:
<http://www.scu.edu/president/deora.cfm>

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About Santa Clara University

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SCU memorializes student killed in terrorist attack

By Julie Treanor



Outdoor memorial in front of Santa Clara Mission Church became a repository of flowers, photos, flags and fond words for Deora Bodley.

Clusters of burned and extinguished candles were at the center of the gifts laid on the grass in front of the Santa Clara Mission de Asís.

The dried flowers, a white teddy bear, purple butterfly along with a box of strawberry-flavored fruit by-the-foot were just some of the other tokens placed on the grass in memory of Deora Bodley.

The 20 year-old Santa Clara University student died aboard the United Airlines flight that was downed by terrorists on Sept. 11 near Pittsburgh.

About 850 people filled the mission for a memorial service on Sept. 21 where her family and tearful friends celebrated her life. All were wearing tiny white ribbons, in her memory.

“Deora was a bright light. She was a gifted student, a wonderful friend, a kind and generous person beyond description,” said Bodley's mother, Deborah Borza of San Diego, outside the mission before the service.

“As a mother, I will miss her terribly. She was my baby. My baby is gone. As an American, however, I am absolutely unwilling for her death to go unanswered. This was a young, vibrant woman who loved this country more than anyone knew. She loved her freedom. She was fiercely independent — a leader. She was the future of this country.”

As a service-minded college student, Bodley had been volunteering at St. Clare School in Santa Clara, near the SCU campus, where she taught children how to read and taught a few others how to speak French.

“Deora came softly to our school,” said Kathy Almazol, principal of St. Clare. “I remember her signature blue jeans, interesting jewelry and her tank tops. Deora often wore tank tops.”

Bodley was working with the students on the America Reads program and Almazol said when she thinks of Bodley, the image of her with two or three students walking down the hall, is the image that comes to mind.

“They all had to touch her,” she said. “Holding her arm, holding her leg and she didn't seem to mind.”

Prayers were done in classrooms as part of a healing process for the young students. Many helped to create a poster and cards for her parents.

Students at St. Clare are given silver boxes for kind deeds and words, Almazol explained as she held up a small package wrapped in silver wrapping paper with blue ribbon.

“Because of the depth of love Deora gave us, Deora is our silver box,” she said.

The silver box was given to the family in a basket that was filled with the students' cards. One of the cards inside that basket contained this poem written by a fifth grade girl.

“Dear God, Please help Deora remember all the times we have been together...I hope she's OK with you. Amen.”

All of the third and fourth grade students whom Bodley tutored attended the memorial, along with some of their parents.

Some fifth and sixth grade students who knew her volunteered to sing *Amazing Grace*.

Bodley's mother spoke to kids before the memorial and said, “thank you for loving my daughter,” Almazol said.

The candlelight danced on the face of Bodley's mother when she took a long pause to scan the faces of the hundreds from the Santa Clara community who filled the mission.

“At this moment, I am so proud of my daughter,” she said as she stood tall behind the podium in her black dress.

“Anything you see in my daughter — that is also in you,” she said. “If you see a bright light, you are that bright light. If you see love, you are that love. If you see heaven on earth, you are that heaven on earth,” she said.

“There is a very new conversation out there...It's about love in the world. Everyone is included and no one is left out.

“Deora didn't leave you out and you didn't leave Deora out. All of you take that conversation out into the world and you will be taking her out into the world with you.

“That is what she wants and that is what we want.”

Earlier in the week, Borza spent an evening with Bodley's friends from San Diego going through things under her daughter's bed.

She found a small journal with a unicorn on the front.

Inside she found a message her daughter had written.

“People ask who? What? When? Where? Why? How? I ask peace.”

“She wanted each and every one of us to know it only takes one person to make this happen. Deora was that person for us,” Borza said.

Bodley's father, Derrill Bodley of Stockton, said he remembers his daughter's smile and the days she fell asleep in his arms at the symphony.

The following is the message he believes his daughter has given to him:

“Work to solve the root problems that caused these events: The lack of respect and love by all human beings for all others, the lack of peacefulness within each of us which would promote peace among us, and the lack of sharing equitably and responsibly without greed in the world we live in, among all people and all life.”

