

TY For outpouring of Support

JANE ROGERS

I am here today, speaking on behalf of Danny, Vinnie, and Bridget, about their mother, my mother-in-law, Jane.

When planning the eulogy that would be given today, many ideas were discussed. Then, an old letter was found that had been written to Jane three years ago, prior to a surgery. It was decided that the letter best represented the sentiments that the Rogers children want to convey to you today about their mom.

Originally dated: Sunday, July 16, 2006

Dear Mom,

You mean so much to us. You have shaped our lives in countless ways. We want you to know this before you go into your surgery and begin your recovery process. Though truly countless, we decided to try to list some of the important things you have taught us—

1. **REMEMBER WHERE YOU CAME FROM....**In memories of our family as kids, we remember asking if we were going to be with Mom's "team" or Dad's "team". It was always nice to be with the Rogers, and it was always fun to be with the Baudo's. We have an appreciation for being Italian and Irish. We were lucky enough to grow up in a home where we always felt loved and encouraged. We come from good stock...Thank you!

2. **BE GENEROUS....**In thank you note after thank you note over the years, we have told you that you are the most generous person we know. Sure, some of that comes from the actual gifts and money you that you have given us over the years, but honestly, it includes the way you leave food behind our doors, too. Or plant a pot of mint or basil for us. It stems from the way you have brought food to *so, so many* people over the years, sometimes sick people, or sometimes lonely people, or sometimes, just because you felt like trying a new recipe. Your hearing may not be the best now, but you can ALWAYS hear when someone needs something, and you are the first to answer the call. Bridget smiles at the memory of you calling her "Lola" as you planned the wedding....saying, "whatever Lola wants....". For all of it, the generosity you've shown to us and others, Thank you!

3. THE VALUE OF AN EDUCATION....We don't know how you and dad did it, but you did. Three kids privately educated, kindergarten through college. Amazing. Not to mention tuition, books, room & board, and transportation. But then you said, sure Bridget, join a sorority. You believed that education didn't happen only in the classrooms, and you suggested that Bridget go to Europe for 8 weeks. You were right, she learned much on that trip, including the self-confidence to know that she could do it. Then, the next year you made the same offer to the boys. Remarkable. What we all took for granted back then takes our collective breaths way now. We are glad that we felt challenged by you and Dad to be good students, Thank you.

4. IT NEVER HURTS TO ASK....Along the lines of giving a kid self-confidence, this has to be the ultimate gift. We grew up knowing that we had a voice. The answer may not always be what we hoped it would be, but we had the chance to explain ourselves to open ears, and for that, thank you!

5. TAKE THE HIGH ROAD....That is what the voice in our head says when we are faced with a dilemma. It's your voice. It's the perfect advice and it applies to every situation. Thank you for it.

6. HONOR YOUR MARRIAGE VOWS....The way you cared for Dad is the only way you would have ever done it. We know that. But, it is not the way many other people would have done it. It would not have occurred to you to do otherwise, but we have to tell you that you taught us important marriage lessons while you were just living your life. Also, remember how dad would smile when you walked in the house? We all saw that, too, and we remember it! Thank you for showing us what it means to make a promise.

7. TRUST IN THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS....This is the prayer that rolls off of our tongues without even thinking about it. It helps us stay calm, to focus, and to trust. It gives us comfort to say the words that we have heard all our lives, and gives us pride, to hear our spouses and children say them now too. It is a good legacy to give a family, the ability to trust in God. Good Job, Mom. Thank you.

8. IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER....Not just as a way to start a prayer, but as a way to lead our lives. We knew you were in charge, but you always ran everything by Dad. You were a united front of parenthood, and now that we are parents, we see the value in doing that. Important example; thanks.

9. FAMILY COMES FIRST....Since we've become parents, and you became a grandmother, we get a kick out of seeing how the house rules have changed! How eating cookies on the living room couch seems like a logical thing to do now. We love the way you love your granddaughters. We love how you never refuse their invitations to recitals or games, how you clap in delight when you see them enter your house, even if you are tired, and how you have a special smile that is reserved exclusively for them. Bridget loves that Isabella believes she is the only person in the world that you will get down on the floor with. Thank you for letting her believe that, but please, don't get down there anymore, thanks!

10. TELL PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU LOVE THEM....Don't ever worry that the people in your life do not know they are loved. We do. And, we love you and each other too. How many adult sons and daughters still greet each other with a kiss like we do? No many, but it is who we are. And we are this way because you taught us to be, and we thank you.

A list of things you've taught us could go on and on....like giving us an appreciation of opera & live theater, orders to not cook cheap, to go first class, etc., etc.....We hope to teach our girls as you have taught us. We love you with all our hearts and want you to know it ~ B-V-D

~ ~ ~

In conclusion, we hope this letter gives you an idea of who Jane Rogers was and what she stood for. She lived the gospel. For all the meals she cooked for those who were hungry, the visits she made to those who were lonely, the care she gave Vincent and many others who were sick, Jane believed that what she did, she did for the Lord. May her example teach us to do the same. We will miss our Mom, our Nana, in ways yet untold, but find comfort in knowing how many lives she touched, and that she has earned her eternal reward.

On a personal note and with apologies to Bridget, Vinnie and Danny, I have something I want to add:

1) As Bridget, Vinnie and Danny have stated in the written eulogy that they asked me to deliver today.....Jane, your Nana.....would do anything for anybody and at anytime and without question, just because it needed to be done....we should do the same in her memory.

2) She had her convictions and ^{WAS} were true to them until the end. She would have made a wonderful attorney as I heard her say many times; date and document everything.....that piece of advice would serve us well.

3) She treated all of us, whether blood or in-law the same, with gifts, her time and again, anything else she had to offer. I am not sure what Bridget and I would have done had it not been for Nana taking care of Bella at a minutes notice. ~~Tina returned that favor to Jane this summer nursing her foot. Jane appreciated that kindness more than words can convey. One time this summer Bridget wanted to change the dressing on Jane's foot. Jane's reply was, no, let's wait for Tina.~~ As the favorite son-in-law, she never told me what to do or interfered.....she saw us all as her children.

4) Finally, her family was everything to her, especially her grand-children. Bridget, Vinnie and Danny are a reflection of Jane and Vincent and I am honored to be able to call all of them, all of you, my relatives. To that end, on Monday after she had passed, Bridget was reading some notes that her mom had left to....as it was entitled, "Everyone". To condense her notes into one full thought, she wanted us to all stay close, to celebrate birthdays, holidays and most especially Christmas together, to stay together...to stay close. We have to do that, because Family is all we ever really have in life....and in the end, she had her children with her at the time she choose (and I truly believe it was her choice) to leave us and join her other family members that had been gone away from her for far too long.

When someone dies we miss them, but we still have what they gave us, each other.....and that is what is really important....each other. As I tell my own daughter....Bella when I look into your eyes, I see all of your relatives....they do live on in each of us.

While it was Vincent who was the "Marine", it was Jane who lived up to the Marine motto of Semper Fi.....always faithful.

So as I did for my own mother, I now find myself doing the same for Nana. With Bridget, Vinnie and Dannys permission.....I will leave you with what I heard her say many times....what I am sure her children heard her say a thousand times.....what she would want me to say now.....AND what her children said to each other on the ~~night~~ she died and then again last night.....

DAY

Good night.....sweet dreams.....God bless you.....and I love you.

Sacred Heart of Jesus we place our trust in you.

May she rest in Peace.....

Pasquelina Domenica

Minnie

Jane

Mom

Nana