

“Father, will you stay with me until they take me away?” asked the first woman, with still a little fear showing in her voice.

“I will, of course. God love you, my child,” answered the priest.

Within a short time, the woman had changed into a gown and lay down on the bed in her room. The other woman came over with a syringe in her hand saying, “I will give you this; it will relax you and make you sleepy before they come.”

“Thank you Sister,” said the woman, as she held out her arm to the nurse.

### **She Is Safe With God**

“Father,” said the woman, looking at the priest. “I know Jesus is with me, and I know whatever the outcome, I am safe.”

The priest smiled gently at the woman, now slipping into her drug-induced sleep, and said, “You always were, and you always will be.”

A few moments later, when they came and took the woman to the operating room, the priest asked the nurse, “There is not much hope, then?”

“No Father; the tumor is so large, it is unlikely she will survive the operation, but if she does, she will be incapacitated for the rest of her life. The doctors give only a 10% chance of success, so I doubt if she will come through the operation,” explained the nurse.

“That’s a shame,” said the priest. “She had a promising future as a nun; you could see it, even though she has only been a sister for less than a year. Anyway, she is safe with God now...Let’s leave it to Him.”

The nurse nodded in agreement, and then said to the priest, “In life, she is God’s, and if she dies, in death she will be His, too. That’s a happy thought to hold onto, isn’t it, Father?”

“Yes, my child, it is. A happy thought I would like to have about all people,” suggested the priest, as he said in his mind, “If only, Lord...if only.”  
(from *Stories of Love*)

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## ***When The Time Comes***



### ***Prayer Before Surgery***

**Loving Father,  
I entrust myself to your care this day;  
guide with wisdom and skill the minds and hands  
of the medical people who minister in your Name,  
and grant that every cause of illness be removed,  
I may be restored to soundness of health  
and learn to live in more perfect harmony  
with you and with those around me.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord.  
Amen**

## *When The Time Comes*

“The clock seems to move so quickly,” said the woman to the person in the room with her. “I never have known time to go so fast.”

“Relax if you can; watching the clock is not going to make time go any slower. It will just make you more anxious.” replied the other woman in the room.

“I can’t help it; it will soon be time, and I can’t seem to do anything except to watch time while I wait. Funny isn’t it, I didn’t think too much about time before,” mused the woman.

“Are you sure there is nothing I can get for you?” asked the other.

“Will the priest be here soon?” replied the first woman, questioningly.

“He is on his way. He shouldn’t be too long,” confirmed the other.

“He is a kind man. He brings me great comfort,” said the woman, with a smile.

“Priests do that, don’t they?” agreed the other.

“He keeps telling me God loves me and cares for me; that Jesus will be with me when the time comes,” explained the woman. She continued, “I will go to confession and receive Communion beforehand, and he tells me my soul will be cleansed and then filled with Jesus, so I will be in a state of grace for whatever happens. I know it’s true, so really, I shouldn’t be afraid, should I? But I am a little.”

“Try to be strong. Lean on Jesus; He will carry you through.” said the priest, who had just entered the room, as the woman was saying this.

“Father, you’re here. I’m glad,” smiled the woman. “I was waiting for you.”

“My child, I am glad to be with you, for your courage and faith in this difficult time strengthens me, you know,” stated the priest, as he gave the woman a gentle hug.

## **I Will Celebrate Mass For You**

“Will you hear my confession now, Father?” asked the woman, nervously.

“Of course, my child, and after that I will celebrate Mass for you,” replied the priest, as he took his stole out of his case.

“Will you give us a few moments alone please?” asked the priest of the other woman.

“I will be just outside the door, if you need me,” she replied as she got up and walked through the doorway.

After the confession was over, the priest called the other woman back into the room, saying, “Do you want to join our Mass?”

“Yes, please, Father; it would be a privilege,” she replied, looking at the now peaceful woman who had just confessed her sins.

“You seem at peace,” she said to her.

“I am. It is good to confess all your sins. It is as if a weight has been lifted from me,” responded the woman.

## **They Will Be Coming Soon**

When the Mass had finished, all three of them sat there quietly for some time, reflecting on the Sacrament they had just received. The other woman looked at the clock and jumped up, saying, “Look at what time it is. We had better get you ready; they will be coming for you soon.”