



Katie Elise Lambert Foundation

This letter was read by a close friend
on January 26, 2005 at Katie's funeral:

Dear Bob and Judy,

In all my years as a professional in the Field of Death and Dying, I learned one thing that stood out above the rest. And that is, that each death is unique. By that I mean, every death is viewed differently by every person hearing of it, and must, therefore, be dealt with in a personal one by one way.

Katie's tragic and unexpected death is being felt by people that you don't know, and never will know, from all over these United States. Prayers are ascending heavenward on Katie's behalf, as well as yours, from every corner of this country. The unbearable burden of sorrow that you are being asked to bear, is being borne, in part, by each person who knows your pain.

When I was in the sixth grade, autograph books were all the rage. My dad bought me one and I asked him to write in it right away. This is what he put down:

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience with the little ones." (Victor Hugo I think?)

When my mother saw what he had written she told Dad that she didn't think it was very appropriate for one so young as I. However, my father died two months later and these few words of advice that he left with me, have carried me through some very difficult times.

The image I carry in my head of Katie is of her hanging on Bob's leg or of his holding her in one arm, while using his other arm to hold his music book while singing an anthem in the choir.

Since time has no meaning in the context of Eternity, Katie's three years are just as significant as my friend Annie Fischers' one hundred and three years and I am just as privileged to have known the one as well as the other.

I will try to keep the lessons of Katie's shining innocence, blind trust and unconditional love alive in my life, as a tribute to her and also to you, her parents, who put it there in the first place.

Katie sleeps with the angels now and they will take good care of her.

With heartfelt sympathy,

Barbara Clippinger

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