



CELEBRATING THE LIFE

of

EVELYN ONIKEH SONGU-MBRIWA

*née Parper*



AUGUST 13, 1946- OCTOBER 17, 2021



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021  
INCARNATION CATHOLIC CHURCH  
TAMPA, FLORIDA USA

# ONIKEH'S JOURNEY

Evelyn Onikeh Songu-Mbriwa (née Parper) was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She left this world on October 17, 2021, at the age of 75.

She was born to Ansumana Beresford Parper and Regina Omohjowo Parper (née Williams) on August 13, 1946, in Bo, Sierra Leone. She is the eldest daughter and second of nine children.

After graduating from Methodist Girls High School in Freetown, Evelyn chased her dreams to attend medical school in Kiev, USSR (now Ukraine), where she met her husband, Dr. Tamba Songu-Mbriwa. They married and had two sons in the USSR- Sahr, and Tamba- in the early '70s.

Following their studies in the former USSR, they moved briefly back to Sierra Leone and had a third child, Sohkor. The young family relocated to the North-East of England shortly afterward. Here they had three more children- Aiah, Omohjowo, and Evelyn. While her husband worked as a doctor for the NHS, Evelyn became a stay-at-home mother, raising their six children.

In 1991, Evelyn moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where she worked as a healthcare professional in various hospitals in the Greater Boston Area.

In 2000, she relocated a final time to Tampa, Florida, where she continued her career in the healthcare field until retirement. She spent the remainder of her life traveling and enjoying time with her children, grandchildren, and other family.

Evelyn was a woman of strong faith, and her love of God guided her throughout her life. This is the legacy she leaves behind to her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all those whose lives she touched.

Evelyn is proceeded in death by her beloved parents and her husband, She is survived by her six children, her eight grandchildren (Ellie, Kai, Emmanuel, Joshua, David, Amarius, Sia, and Rebecca), and her eight siblings (Israel, Emelia, Adeline, Juliana, Regina, Leo, Fr. Winston, and Veronica).



# THE FUNERAL MASS FOR

*Evelyn Onikeh Songu-Mbriwa*

## OFFICIATING

Father Michael Owen

## HYMNS

Prayer Of St. Francis

I Am The Bread Of Life

Amazing Grace

Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Omohjowo Head

Lamentations 3:17-26

Veronica Ame

## EULOGY

Evelyn Sekajipo

Israel O. Parper

## PALLBEARERS

Sahr Songu-Mbriwa

Tamba Songu-Mbriwa III

Aiah Songu-Mbriwa

Jegan Gabbidon, D.O.

Stefan Gabbidon

Paul Sheriff

Emmanuel Solanke



# THE FUNERAL MASS FOR

*Evelyn Onikeh Songu-Mbriwa*

## HYMNS

### Prayer of St. Francis

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving of ourselves that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.



# THE FUNERAL MASS FOR

*Evelyn Onikeh Songu-Mbriwa*

## HYMNS

### I am the Bread of Life (1/2)

I am the bread of life.

He who comes to me shall not hunger;  
he who believes in me shall not thirst.

No one can come to me  
unless the Father draw him.

#### CHORUS

And I will raise him up,  
and I will raise him up,  
and I will raise him up on the last day.

The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and he who eats of this bread,  
he shall live for ever,  
he shall live for ever.

#### CHORUS

# THE FUNERAL MASS FOR

*Evelyn Onikeh Songu-Mbriwa*

## HYMNS

### I am the Bread of Life (2/2)

Unless you eat  
of the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink of his blood,  
and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you.

#### CHORUS

I am the resurrection,  
I am the life.  
He who believes in me  
even if he die,  
he shall live for ever.

#### CHORUS

Yes, Lord, I believe  
that you are the Christ,  
the Son of God,  
who has come  
into the world.

#### CHORUS

# THE FUNERAL MASS FOR

*Evelyn Onikeh Songu-Mbriwa*

## HYMNS

### Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.



# THE FUNERAL MASS FOR

*Evelyn Onikeh Songu-Mbriwa*

## HYMNS

### Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To the throne your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore God's praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise the Lord for grace and favour  
To all people in distress;  
Praise God, still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glorious now God's faithfulness.

Fatherlike, God tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame he knows;  
Motherlike, God gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Widely yet God's mercy flows.

Angels in the heights adoring,  
You behold God face to face;  
Saints triumphant now adoring,  
Gathered in from every race:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace.



*The world changes from year to year, our  
lives from day to day, but the love and  
memory of you shall never pass away.*  
-unknown



Only a  
moment you  
stayed but  
what an  
imprint your  
footprints  
have left on  
our hearts.

-Dorothy Ferguson







*Wherever a beautiful soul has  
been, there is a trail of  
beautiful memories.*

*-Ronald Reagan*







*You are gone, but thank you for all these  
soft, sweet things you left behind. In my home,  
in my head, in my heart.*

*-Nikita Gill*







*A great soul serves everyone all the time.  
A great soul never dies. It brings us  
together again and again.*

*-Maya Angelou*





IN REMEMBRANCE  
— of —  
AUNTY EVELYN



by: Kassasungu  
(nephew of late Dr. Tamba Songu-Mbriwa)

How long shall we continue to live  
as if we are mourning souls  
Our hearts are in grief  
The tears of my eyes  
have transformed into the bodies of water  
Like ocean beyond the shores of the sea  
Like Islands and lakes  
Like morning dew on the leaves of the trees  
You are like a blessing to this humanity  
Like one bright star among the galaxies  
Your love still remains in our memories  
You are more than the precious jewelry  
That the human eyes have ever seen  
Beautiful darling  
You were so caring  
You had been around in terms of my need  
I can still hear your voice  
In the sound of the wind  
The ink of the pen of the rising  
The bodies of the heavens are still shining



Well done, good and faithful  
servant. You have been  
faithful over a little; I will set  
you over much. Enter into  
the joy of your master.

MATTHEW 25:21





# Thank You.

The Songu-Mbriwa, Parper, and Davies families would like to thank you for your condolences, support, and prayers in our time of mourning.

Special thanks to Incarnation Catholic Church,  
Tampa, FL

Professional funeral services entrusted to  
Eric L. Wilson Funeral & Cremation Services,  
Hollywood, FL.





"Be the change  
you wish to see in the world"

-Mahatma Gandhi