

REQUIEM

(To Frank Sigsworth)

Too few are those who have
The courage and intelligence
To look at life
And grasp its meaning.
But fewer yet, are those
Who have the will
To live its purpose
For unselfish benefit.

Oh God,
Was it but only days ago
He ate with us
And shared for more
Than genial company,
Then went his way,
As we went ours,
Not even guessing
At the promises
That would never be fulfilled?

But tears and prayers
And holy mass
And even solid ground
Are not the end.
They only emphasize
The lesson that he leaves.
For many live, and hope,
And reach toward tomorrow,
Because they had
A friend.

Florence Roper
28/9/73