

GOD'S SPIRIT IS STILL WITH US

Irene Gut Opdyke was named “Righteous Among the Nations” –a title given to those who risked their lives by saving Jews during the Holocaust.

At the age of 17, she witnessed a gruesome event which transformed her life. Walking down the street one day, she saw a Nazi officer tossing a baby into the air like a bird and shooting him. This shocked her to the core.

It was soon after this shocking event that she was made a housekeeper at a German officer's villa. Here she hid 12 Jews in the basement, and fed them with leftovers from a hotel where she worked.

But on one occasion, the officer returned home early. He ran to phone the head of Gestapo. She pleaded with him and agreed to become his mistress in exchange for letting the Jews remain in the basement of his villa.

She then migrated to America and spent the last years of her life teaching children to reach out to others regardless of nationality, religion, color or creed.

She left our world but her spirit remains at work among us. She challenges us still to see the bigger picture.

As the Lord leaves us, He is still very much present, by empowering us to take up His story.

Today, we are still standing in a world of conflicting hope and despair. We try to draw strength and inspiration from the life and love of Jesus, but also from the countless numbers of inspirational and courageous people, like Irene Gut Opdyke.

Fr Toan Nguyen

