

A FEW WORDS FROM SEAMUS BEIRNE FORMER MEMBER OF THE SACRED HEART ORDER

Although he couldn't hear my voice, on Monday evening I said goodbye to my old friend Pat O'Hagan. Next morning he passed away. In a beautiful tribute written by Jerry Holland, he referred to Pat as "comfortable in his own skin." Indeed he was. And because of that he made all who came in contact with him, comfortable in theirs. An example of that occurred during a visit with him in Damien about a month ago. One of his caregivers approached to check on him. Pat threw his hands in the air and bellowed, "Mary you look like a teenager." Mary glowed and everyone within earshot dissolved in laughter.

Pat was an authentic, caring human being. Sometimes his easy going, jovial attitude camouflaged that he was also a man of great talent. He received high praise for his leadership skills and pastoral instincts during his tenure at St. Paul the Apostle mega parish in Chino Hills.

His passing brings to mind, "Spring and Fall," a short poem about death addressed to a young child called Margaret, by Fr. Gerard Manley Hopkins:

"... No matter, child, the name. Sorrow's springs are the same ... It is Margaret you mourn for."

In the long run, I suppose we all mourn for ourselves. Be that as it may. Today I mourn for Pat, my friend and classmate of 63 years. The world will be a sadder place without him.

May he Rest in Peace



Fr. Pat attending his brother Michael's funeral in November, 2010. With him is his other brother Dominic, who died in February, 2021.

Photos taken by Fr. Eugene Hasson