

*For those who have been faithful, O Lord,
life is not ended, but merely changed.*

April 21, 1985

Today, we celebrate the Journey and the Dream of Sr. Patricia Byrne. "Both are important, the Journey and the Dream! The coming-out and the entering-in... without the Journey, the Dream is futile. The Journey and the Dream are one balanced act of Love."

As mother, sister, colleague, friend, we journeyed with Pat, as did so many others whose lives she touched. Pat's dream and desire to help others "journey well" as realized in her teaching, her work with Operation Able (Ability Based on Long Experience), and more directly in the development of the Life Career Planning Center for Religious which she co-inspired with Sr. Dolores Linhart, SP. Records from the Center show that, in 1983, 176 people were served; in 1984, 486; and in the first three and a half months of 1985, already over 500. Totally, over one thousand lives have been empowered over a two and a half year period, half of which time Pat was a cancer patient. The impact of this ministry was, and continues to be felt. In a telegram received yesterday from Joseph Cardinal Bernardine, he states; "I was saddened to learn about the death of Sr. Pat Byrne. Her ministry profoundly affected the lives of so many sisters, brother, and priests." To make the "dream come true" for all of us was Pat's ministry. She was willing to give whatever it took to bring that about.

The reading she chose for the liturgy says it so well. "Length of days is not what makes age honorable, nor number of years the true measure of life." (Wisdom) Her life of 47 years was precious to so many! She definitely was willing to "risk and assume new tasks", often being inspired to march to the beat of a different drummer. Those close to Pat were impressed with her sense of humor and her ability to put everyone at ease. This was especially true during these last weeks as she ministered to others even as she was dying. She made being with her a gift and blessing.

Even during her last moments, she tried to comfort those at her bedside by raising her fingers in the symbol of peace. Shortly afterward, which we believe was her entrance to eternity, she smiled! It was as if she was trying to tell us..."It's okay...I'm fine...we finally got this show on the road." When Pat entered the hospital on April 18th, she told those with her, "the show probably won't get on the road until midmorning." Significantly she died at 10:20 a.m.!

It is notable that Pat begins her journey in eternity in April. April, the time of spring.. of tulips and daffodills... the time of the greening of the earth... the time of new life. April is also the month in which her father died twenty-five years ago. At that time Pat received a card that touched her deeply. She kept it all these years as a reminder to herself and asked that it be read



at this liturgy. It is perhaps her way of continuing to assist us in our life planning. It reads:

Safely Home

I am home in heaven, dear ones
Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.
All the pain and grief is over,
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in heaven at last.

There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth--
You shall rest in God's own land.
When that work is all completed,
He will gently call you Home;
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,
Oh, the joy to see you come!

Pat's conviction and belief in being able to develop the best of the giftedness in each person will live on in us all. For we will remember, and in remembering, we carry out her Dream.

We express our deep sympathy to Pat's Mother, Ethel, her sisters, Sr. Thomasine and Christine; her brothers, Christopher, and Jim and their families, as well as her other relatives. She counted many as friends... but most specially Sr. Rita Vahling and Sr. Dolores Linhart, SP. To them also we extend our prayerful support and love.

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Sister Patricia Byrne (Kilian)



Born: June 29, 1937
 Parents: Christopher and Ethel (Jacobsen) Byrne
 Postulancy: September 6, 1954
 Novitiate: August 13, 1955
 1st Profession: August 12, 1957
 Final Profession: August 13, 1960
 Died: Thursday, April 18, 1985 at 10:20 a.m. at Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove, IL

Ministry:

1957 - 1960 St. Mary, Des Plaines, IL, Grades 1,2
 1960 - 1961 St. Ludmilla, Chicago, IL Grade 2
 1961 - 1962 St. Bernard, Joliet, IL, Grade 1
 1962 - 1963 St. Andrew, Romeoville, IL, Grade 2
 1963 - 1965 Guardian Angel Home, House Mother, Junior Boys
 1965 - 1966 St. Stephen, Columbus, OH,
 1966 - 1967 St. Peter, Mansfield, OH, Grade 5
 1967 - 1968 Sacred Heart, Hubbard Woods, IL, Grade 5
 1968 - 1972 St. Jude, Joliet, IL, Grades 5,7
 1972 - 1976 Holy Family, Bayfield, WI, Grades 7,8 and Principal
 1976 - 1977 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Intern
 1977 - 1979 St. Francis Convent, Joliet, IL, Director of Retirement
 1979 - 1983 Co-Ordinator of Services & Training, Operation ABLE
 1983 - 1985 Co-Director of Life Career Planning Center, Westchester, IL

Wake: Sunday, April 21, 1985 from 2 - 7 p.m. with prayer service at 3:30 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial: Sunday, April 21, 1985 at 7 p.m.

Burial: Monday, April 22, 1985 from OLA at 9 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery

Survived by Mother, Mrs. Ethel Byrne, Sisters, Sister Thomasine Byrne and Chris (Mrs. Eugene Audette) and brothers, James and Christopher.