

SISTER PATRICIA JORDAN
November 12, 1928 – July 10, 2008

Last evening, the theme for our prayer, which was suggested by Sister Bernadette, was the parable of the Sower. We took time to reflect on the countless ways in which Sister Patricia had sown seeds of love and compassion in her ministry as a music educator. And, we said, “Thank you, Pat, for the music.”

Today, the scriptures and music for the Liturgy, suggest another melody and lyrics: “The journey is our destiny. Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one and Christ is at the Center of it all.”

Pat entered the journey of life on November 12, 1928, the fourth of 6 children born to Joseph and Irene Paden Jordan. Beatrice Patricia was welcomed by siblings, Bill, Barb, and Betty. When I asked Betty about “Beatrice,” she explained that her parents wanted another “B” to add to the list. Obviously, the concept was a bit flawed since the youngest of the Jordan clan were Alice and Joe. Joanne, Joe’s wife, is with us today as well as Bill and Linda Lutz, who are second cousins. They were kind enough to stay with Betty last evening so that Joanne could join us for the Vigil Prayer

Faith and music were at the center of life in the Jordan family. Mrs. Jordan, an accomplished pianist, and Mr. Jordan, a vocalist and violinist, would gather the family together each Sunday afternoon to sing and play together. Most of the children took advantage of the opportunity for music lessons. Pat played piano, trumpet and trombone.

The family settled in Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, and on September 8, 1946, Patricia entered the Seton Hill Sisters of Charity from Saint John the Baptist Parish. Pat received the habit on April 13, 1947, and was known in religion as Sister Thomas More.

The journey continued throughout 60 years of active ministry in music education. It was not always smooth sailing for Pat. The melody of her life included measures of dissonance and disappointment. She moved on, despite days of poor health and discomfort, maintaining her sense of humor and her privacy. Her dear friend, Sister Bernadette DelDuca, was a support to her through it all.

In August of last year, Pat was faced with a soul-searching decision: to accept dialysis and continue the journey or to move in another direction. Pat courageously chose life! This was just another speed bump in her journey. When she arrived at Caritas Christi, she announced to Carol Sachs, “This is temporary. I’ll be going into Pittsburgh this weekend.” Carol concluded, and rightly so, “This is some lady!”

When her plans didn’t materialize, she accepted the inevitable with courage and faith in God’s providence.

The months spent at Caritas Christi presented countless opportunities for transformation and reconnection. Many didn't recognize the new and improved 115 pound Pat Jordan. She continued to love and to live life with zest, humor, and passion. Pat was a woman of faith and fidelity to prayer. She had deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Mother. She prayed the rosary each day and encouraged us to pray the Angelus.

Pat loved her days at Caritas Christi. She found great joy as she sat in the back of the Chapel and recalled the "old days" when we would all be gathered together in the Chapel at Seton Hill. I was struck this morning by a line from our gathering sung prayer, *Jerusalem, My Destiny*. "Here among you now I find a glimpse of what might be." Here among you, her Sisters, she found peace, contentment, support, and joy. And, she cherished her time with all of you, especially the members of her entrance group.

In spite of all the suffering which she endured, we were surprised that her journey on this earth ended rather quickly following the amputation of her leg. God had greater plans for Pat.

In conclusion, I would like to share a conversation which Pat had with Carol Sachs relative to her choice to accept dialysis. She was annoyed when she would be questioned about her choice.

"All my life," Pat recalled, "I worked each day and in return I received a paycheck. Now, I'm retired. I work part-time three days each week. In return, I receive life"

May the choirs of angels welcome your courageous soul into Paradise, Pat, and, may your soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ. Amen.

*Funeral Liturgy Reflection
Sister Maureen O'Brien
July 15, 2008*

