

TRIBUTE TO SR PATRICIA O'SULLIVAN

Patricia was born in Okato, Taranaki on November 18, 1939 and baptized Patricia Elizabeth. Her parents were the late John and Kathleen O'Sullivan and she was the third of 7 children, 3 girls and 4 boys. Patricia's late brother Terry was an All Black and she was very proud of him.

After leaving St Mary's College in Auckland Patricia helped her mother at home on the family farm for several years. She entered the Little Company of Mary Novitiate in Wellington in 1964 and after receiving the habit was known as Sr Patrick, she later chose to revert to Patricia, her baptismal name; she was finally professed in Calvary Chapel Hawera in 1972. Patricia completed her Enrolled Nursing Course at Burwood Hospital Christchurch and apart from 4 years in Hawera she lived and ministered in Christchurch.

Patricia was burdened with mental illness for many years; she accepted this cross and bravely battled through endless Hospital visits and treatments. In 2005 Patricia became a resident at Nazareth House where she received wonderful care and her spiritual needs were met. Sadly after the February earthquake Patricia and all Nazareth residents were uprooted from their comfortable home and transported to Nelson. While she received good care in Nelson she was pleased to return to Christchurch just 3 weeks ago and needless to say we were delighted to be able to visit her frequently again. We extend our sincere gratitude to all those involved in caring for Patricia: the Sisters and staff at Nazareth House, Princess Margaret Hospital, Alexandra Hospital in Nelson and George Manning Home and Hospital in Christchurch. Patricia became acutely ill on Saturday August 27 and died peacefully in Christchurch Hospital on Saturday evening, she was in the 45th year of her Religious Profession and aged 71 years..

In earlier times Patricia loved to go swimming, she would seize every opportunity to go for a swim in the sea and she was a regular at St Albans pool. Going on holiday to Taranaki the swimming togs were on the priority packing list! Also when she was well she enjoyed biking and going for walks, she was interested in cooking. and was a tasty cook using skills no doubt learnt from her mother.

Patricia's family loved and faithfully supported her through the good and not so good times. She loved her family dearly and this was evident from the mountain of letters she wrote to keep everyone on their toes. The supply of writing paper ran out at frequent intervals!

Pat you have lived our Little Company of Mary charism in a way different from the rest of us; through your long years of illness you have journeyed with Jesus to Calvary, you've walked in companionship with Mary and with patience and acceptance. The motto you chose at your Final Profession "I can do all things in him who strengthens me" was indeed relevant.

Thank you for all you have been for the Little Company of Mary, we love you and miss you but we also rejoice that you are now free to enjoy the happiness of eternal life, rest in peace Pat.

Helena Kearns

