

Patricia Deiman, CSJ

February 3, 1928 ~ September 10, 2016

Patricia Ann Deiman, the daughter of John Herman and Tena Teresa Smith Deiman, was born on Feb. 3, 1928 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Patricia attended Nativity Grade School followed by one year at Maria Sanford Public School. As a sophomore she enrolled at St. Joseph's Academy and graduated in 1946. The following September she joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and was given the name of Sister Jeanne Teresa. Pat made her final vows on August 15, 1952.

Patricia was one of the first four Sisters of St. Joseph to complete a four-year nursing program at the College of St. Catherine graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Science. She began her healthcare ministry at St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis and continued at St. John's Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. Following this, she began full-time study in the master's program at the University of Minnesota. She was one of several honored for their leadership contributions. After receiving her M.A. she was appointed Director of Nursing at St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis.

In response to the Church's plea to send religious missionaries to Latin America, Pat was among the original fourteen sisters chosen from across the congregation to go to Peru. On August 3, 1962 Pat, Alicia Meyer (Sister Mary Arthur, LA) and Margaret O'Brien (Sister Richard Clare, SL) were the first to arrive in Lima and take up residence at the Central Military Hospital where Pat was assigned as Director of Nursing Services. This was a formidable task, given the size of the hospital (1000 beds) and her lack of language preparation and cultural orientation. Within a short time, Pat became aware of the class segregation in the hospital and took a strong stand on behalf of the lower ranking troops. She won her case and the intensive care unit was opened to any patient who needed intensive nursing care. It was evident that these first sisters' personal witness of respect, kindness and concern for each person, regardless of class, color or creed was demonstrated throughout the Military Hospital.

From April, 1967 to August, 1967, Pat was a consultant for the Pan American Health Organization which represented the World Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations in Latin America. One remarkable incident happened when she and Alicia Meyer were among some 50 guests held overnight as hostages by anti-Somoza rebels in a hotel in Managua, Nicaragua. At the request of the rebels, Pat and Alicia left the hotel dressed in their modified white habits and carrying a white sheet. They walked across the yard to where soldiers of the U.S. National Guard were positioned and asked

for amnesty on behalf of the rebels. This incident was published in many newspapers all over the world.

In 1968, Pat returned to St. Paul and withdrew from the CSJ Congregation. She continued to work as a consultant in Nursing Services for the United Nations (WHO) in Latin America and the Caribbean until 1978. On leaving WHO, Pat accepted a position in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She was a nursing consultant and a highly successful contract consultant at a variety of universities and professional organizations. She remained in this service for ten years until she retired in 1988.

In 1994, Pat became a Consociate of the St. Paul Province. In requesting this "reconnection," Pat wrote, "I would like to be as closely identified as possible with the Sisters of St. Joseph, a group for which I have tremendous love and respect, and being a consociate affords me this opportunity." In her letter of recommendation for Pat's formalization as a consociate, Catherine Litecky said, "In a sense, Pat has never stopped living as a Sister of Sr. Joseph. She generously shares of herself, her talents and her resources both within and outside the community."

Pat was an active, involved consociate. She served on the St. Paul Province Council, Justice Commission, Consociate Advisory Council, and the board of Carondelet LifeCare Ministries, as well as other standing and ad hoc committees of the province.

In 2002, Pat suffered a severe stroke which left her partially paralyzed. On release from the hospital and initial rehab services, she moved to Bethany until her transfer to Carondelet Village in December, 2011.

On December 27, 2007, Patricia Ann Deiman professed vows as a Sister of St. Joseph in a private ceremony witnessed by four members of her 1949 reception, her friend Alicia Meyer and the Province Leadership Team. In doing this, she renewed the commitment she made and lived as a sister from 1949 to 1968.

Pat died September 10, 2016. She was preceded in death by her parents John and Teresa Herman; her siblings Helen, Harmon, Howard, Bob, Gladys, Floyd, Truman and Vincent. She is survived by Mark Deiman, Robert Deiman, Pat Ferroni, many other nieces and nephews; her dear friend Alicia Meyer, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Consociates and care-givers at Carondelet Village.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated September 15, 2016 at Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery.

May Pat rest in God's peace!

Written by Kathleen Judge, CSJ