

Rev. Fr. Patrick Travers, SS.CC.

1937-2023

When Jesus saw the hungry his The same was true of Fr. Patrick they did something about it. Fr. Pat me, and the students that I brought houses, nine churches, and two year we would also bring food and Africa (as I dreamed of as a child) the same things, but I thank God I

Fr. Pat was born in Ballon, Co. and baptized on the same day. He whom died shortly after birth. His mother was a homemaker. He secondary schools before entering Cootehill, Co. Cavan where he was then went to Queen of Peace Hampshire. He was ordained on teach at Damien High School. La books and told to go and teach. He took that order seriously. For the rest of his life, with and without books, he taught us to live like Jesus.



heart was moved with compassion. Travers. When they saw a need said, “I believe that God’s plan for to Tijuana, was to build over 110 community centers. Five times a other necessities. If I had gone to what would I be doing? Probably am here.

Carlow Ireland on June 13, 1937, was the youngest of ten, three of father was a farm laborer; his attended local elementary and the Sacred Hearts Novitiate in professed on August 15, 1956. He Seminary in Jaffrey Center, New June 24, 1962, and was assigned to Verne, CA. He was handed two

Pat spent 49 years at Damien. During almost all those years, he taught Geometry to thousands of students. He also served as the athletic Director, the Dean of Discipline (he hated it), the Dean of Studies. He was Principal of Damien High School from 1980 to 2010. During his tenure he developed academic programs, built student enrollment, oversaw the construction of two classroom buildings, a swimming pool, tennis courts, artificial turf on the football field and a new athletic center, which bears his name.

Fr. Travers remarked, “In 1987 I started the Tijuana Outreach Ministry. On Saturdays I would take the students to help at orphanages. Upon seeing the terrible poverty, we started food runs. Eventually we built houses involving the young men of Damien along with their fathers. Many of them also brought significant amounts of used clothes. We then founded Galilei Center in Coachella Valley which had an extensive outreach to migrant workers.”

After Fr. Pat left Damien as President in 2011, he became the Pastor of Holy Innocents Parish in Victorville where he worked together with Fr. Paul Murtagh, SS.CC. He called this a super great assignment.

In 2020 he contracted a severe case of COVID before the development of vaccines. He returned to the Damien Residence in very poor health. With strength of will and fierce determination he worked tirelessly to regain his health so that he could continue to serve the people of God.

While his name is written in stone on a building, his living legacy is forever infused in the hearts of thousands of students whose paths crossed his. He was a beautiful, tireless, available disciple of Jesus. Like Saint Damien, he was a builder, who gave blessings and became one for others.

In the last few days of his life, as students and friends stopped by to see him, they could see he was no longer able to build, bless, or bandage. It was time for him to let go and time for them to pick up and continue in his name, and in the names of Jesus and St. Damien, the journey of compassionate responses to the needs of the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.