

EDITORIAL

To Have Known Thomas J. Ryan . . . 1934-1982

Some things are beautiful because they do not last. Sunsets, springtime, childhood, daisies, and the like. Other kinds of beauty undergo a metamorphosis. It takes special eyes to see the continued beauty and handsomeness of a once young wife and husband amid the wrinkles of an elderly couple walking arm in arm. Yet another dimension of beauty is revealed in the love of human beings when one who is loved dies.

To say I love you is to say I hope you never end. Why do we dare to say I love you when we know that all those whom we love shall someday die? Is it because we trust that love has a power which transcends death and resists being forgotten? That is the message of the Scriptures with which Tom worked and by which he lived.

To have known Tom Ryan is to have loved him. His vivaciousness, constant optimism, and good humor touched us who were his colleagues. There were times when, after visits to him during his final illness, we left the hospital with wonder at his hope and continued celebration of life amid the chemotherapy and prognoses.

Tom's celebration of life and love have left living symbols in his wife and daughter, his "two Eileens." We know how hard it is for them to be without him. Sometimes words cannot express what is felt. But to have loved and been loved must be the joy of their memory.

We pray that the God who is Love, whom Tom served in his entire way of living, embrace Tom and sustain his family.

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