

Father Myles Patrick (Pat) Smith (1935 - 2012)

Myles Patrick (Pat) Smith, born in 1935 in Kew, was the eldest son of Frances Carrucan (1896-1955) and Arthur Henry Smith (1889-1967). He is one of the many great grand children of Patrick Carrucan and Mary O'Brien.

In 1949, aged 14, he entered the Christian Brothers' Juniorate and started what was to be long career with this Catholic teaching order. During his time with the Brothers he taught in five of the six Australian States and in New Zealand, labouring in Primary, Secondary, Technical and Boarding Schools.

He began his teaching career in 1954, looking after Grade Three in Balmain in NSW. In the years that followed, he taught every class up to Year 12.

For the last 20 years of his teaching career, he taught Year 12 Religious Education and English Expression and Literature interspersed with holding administrative positions. He held every possible position in the school structure including Principal, Vice Principal, Curriculum Coordinator, Subject Coordinator, Sports Master, Choir Master, Senior Residential Master, Officer of Cadets with the rank of Major, and Liturgy Coordinator.

Due to health issues, he eventually moved north and worked as a pastoral associate at St Mary's Charleville, Queensland, from November 1994 to May 1997 before moving to Sacred Heart Texas, in the same Pastoral Leader role.

Once in Texas, he involved the parishioners in accepting responsibility for the future direction of the Parish. While there in 1999, he celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a Christian Brother.

After much soul searching, Pat made the decision to study for the priesthood. In November 2002, Texas hosted his Ordination to the Diaconate, a superb event held in the Texas Memorial Hall and supported by hundreds of parishioners and town folk. Deacon Pat continued his studies until completion, and was ordained in Toowoomba, in May 2003. Many Texans travelled to witness this very memorable occasion. Once again Texas had a Parish priest and the parishioners realized how fortunate they were to have Father Patrick Smith to guide their faith community into the future.

He eventually retired to Toowoomba and died on 9 September 2011. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral, James St Toowoomba on Thursday 15 September, followed by The Rite of Committal at the Garden of Remembrance Cemetery, Ruthven St South.

Frank Carrucan remembers Fr Pat:

He was my year 7 teacher and a family friend and used to come to visit us at Doveton St on Christmas Day occasionally. I emailed him when we were working on the Carrucan book and we caught up. He was a great teacher and a very funny guy. I went to his first SPC mass in Ballarat. He was describing Texas when someone said "We thought you'd be one of these City fellers". He said he sat up straight and tried his best not to look like a city feller. He gave a very entertaining talk.



Fr Pat Smith, newly ordained in 2003, with his sisters Mary Ann and Margaret