

"The Stone Man"

Flat on his back on a hospital cot for 17 years, unable to lift a finger or to move his head from side to side, Pat Rafferty, the "stone man" of Columbus hospital, Great Falls, Montana, lives a full and busy life for others. Truly the index of a loveable personality.

Pat was honored this Christmas by Pope Pius XII. His Holiness conferred on him the Apostolic Benediction. Many others, notable and otherwise, have paid tribute to this incurable invalid who is the victim of calcification and arthritis. For he is cheerful proof of the triumph of soul over body. His body has been down for 17 years but his soul has blossomed out in strength and influence.

Although the presence of suffering in the world creates a problem for unbelievers, it is no problem at all for Pat Rafferty who knows well what has baffled many elite philosophers. He understands that man has a supernatural destiny, that suffering, sanctified by Jesus Christ on the Cross, is an aid, practically indispensable, for the achievement of close, intimate union with God.

Devotees of materialistic philosophies cannot understand suffering. That is why those in high places and in low will advocate "mercy-killing." It is a man like Pat Rafferty, with thousands of others like him, whose chief lot in life is to suffer, who by his patience and cheerfulness has the God-given opportunity to offer up his sufferings for his "would-be" murderers. Once again--it is the prayer of Christ from His own cross of suffering: "FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."

To Pat Rafferty from Notre Dame; "Greetings and God's blessings upon you and your apostolate of suffering. We will remember you where remembrance counts most--in our daily Masses and Holy Communions. Kindly remember our students in your good prayers. Too many of them have hearts of stone for their Eucharistic Lord and Master."

To The Euthanasia Society Of America:

It would be well for you to ponder the sad effects and the tragic results of legalized euthanasia in another part of the world. Hitler began it in Nazi Germany. From voluntary euthanasia to compulsory the step was quick and short. Once the Nazis secured control of the medical profession, through a form of socialized medicine, the word was passed down to the doctors--get the "insurables" first, then the insane, then the opponents of the Nazi regime, then the Jews, and finally the Catholics.

You advocate "voluntary" euthanasia. But Dr. Sander did not consult his incurable cancer patient. He did not consult anyone. There is no record of his having said a prayer before his momentous, nefarious act. He has already taken the quick, short step. If you must defend Dr. Sander, then you are not defending "voluntary" but compulsory euthanasia.

Advice To Seniors.

Many seniors in the past have found a general confession before graduation is a very profitable spiritual experience. It is not advised for scrupulous penitents. But it is advised for normal penitents when they are changing their state in life. Seniors graduating this semester are advised to take care of this matter soon.

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NOVENA FOR EXAMS! It began this morning for those who want God on their side. But if you haven't been hitting the books don't get sore at God if He doesn't work a miracle.

Prayers: (deceased) friend of Dan McMannus (D11); Ill, father of Jerry Howell (D11); cousin of Jack Clark, '49; Special intentions--10.