



Patricia "Pat" Sanchez Hattiesburg, MS

Patricia "Pat" Sanchez of Hattiesburg, MS, passed away on Thursday, Feb 23, 2017 at Merit Health Wesley. She was 70 years old.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wesley John Datchuck and Genevieve Munn.

Pat was the wife of Rafael Sanchez-Alonso, to whom she has been married for 39 years. Patricia had four children, Paul Gennifer), Rafael (Melissa), Madalena (Andre) and Patrick (Stacy), one brother, Gregory and five grandchildren, Rebecca, Mya, Nora, Julia and Natalie.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she was the oldest child of two. Coming from a military background, she lived in Mississippi, Maine, Japan, Oregon, Oklahoma, Arkansas and her last forty years in Mississippi. Some of her earliest memories are of assisting Japanese burn victims of World War II when her father was part of the Allied occupation force there.

After studying pre-med in college, her deep love for the Bible grew and changed

her life. She enrolled in a joint M.A. program at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, N.Y., under the mentorship of renowned scripture scholar Father Raymond Brown and became her student and friend. His deeply spiritual and balanced approach to the scriptures is reflected throughout Patricia's books and Sunday scripture commentaries, which she wrote for various homily services.

After completing her Bible Studies, Pat wanted to help the poor in Uganda, Africa where she met her husband, Rafael. After both serving 3 years (Rafael for 12), they came to South Mississippi, married and raised their children.

Since 1979 she has regularly written for Celebration, an ecumenical worship resource of The National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company for priests and pastors.

Visitation will take place at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM with rosary service at 7:00 PM. Visitation will continue on Monday, Feb. 27, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM followed by A Mass of Christian Burial.

Interment will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the "Pat Sanchez's Sacred Heart Hispanic Fund." The family is very grateful for all the prayers and signs of love received.

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