

Order of Service

Lighting of the Memorial Candle

Welcome

By The Celebrant: Father John Greene OMI

Entrance Hymn

"Wherever You Go" - Weston Priory

Verse

Wherever you go I shall go.
Wherever you live so shall I live.
Your people will be my people,
and your God will be my God too.
Wherever you die I shall die,
And there shall I be
buried beside you.
We will be together forever, and our

I want to say something to all of you who have become a part of the fabric of my life.
The colour and texture which you have brought into my being have become a song and I
want to sing it forever.

There is an energy in us which makes things happen when the paths of others touch
ours

and we have to be there and let it happen

When the time of our particular sunset comes

our things, our accomplishments won't really matter a great deal

But the clarity and care with which we have loved others will speak with vitality
of the great gift of life we have been for each other

Repeat Verse

In Loving Memory of
Pamela VanRaes

Pam was born to Gloria (Du Quesnay) and Emile Van Raes, in St. Boniface, Manitoba on November 26, 1946.

Beginning with her childhood in St. Boniface, which she shared with her sister Cheryl, Pam formed lifelong friendships which became forever entangled with her feisty Jamaican/Belgian roots. After university, she began her working life as a teacher in Northern Manitoba, sparked by an adventurous spirit which took her eventually to Jamaica, Guyana, Surinam, China and the wilds of Northern British Columbia. It was in those wilds that she and her 12 year-old-daughter Michelle, met her soon-to-be husband, Alan. From life in a small commercial fishery amid the breathtaking beauty of the Stikine River where they welcomed a son, Craig, into the equation, they moved to Vancouver Island. A development education project took her to South America and ultimately inspired her to become involved in vocational counseling as a member of a dynamic team of co-workers. Though this came to an untimely end due to misguided government policy, it was the most fulfilling work of her life. Wherever Pam made her home, it was always alive with family and friends from near and far. She cultivated deep relationships and unconditionally embraced them into her own family.

An automobile accident in 1997 brought an already difficult medical history into unavoidably sharp focus in the form of relentless neuropathic pain which thwarted her previously outgoing nature. In a struggle to hold onto the best possible quality of life, she took up Tai Chi which reversed the downward slide to a degree and enabled her to engage in the rich life around her of which children and grandchildren held centre stage.

Regretfully, she finally succumbed to heart disease and passed away after exhausting all of the medical options.

Pam was very connected to the Bethlehem Retreat Centre and the Benedictine Sisters. She was deeply spiritual, a progressive Catholic, but respectful of all who believed in helping to make the world a better place regardless of religious beliefs. She believed that a simple act of kindness went a long way. We will never forget her.

She is painfully missed by her sister, Cheryl and family, husband of 30 years, Alan, daughter Michelle, her son-in-law, Lincoln, Grandchildren Brennen and Hudson, Son Craig, daughter-in-law, Jessica, honorary family Carla, Braeden, Laurena, Xiujin, Grace, Leila and many, many others.