

Services to be Monday for Brother Sheehy, 5th president of Brebeuf

Indianapolis Star, October 24, 1992

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral for Brother J. Patrick Sheehy, 51, president of Brebeuf Preparatory School. Calling will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday and from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday in the chapel at Brebeuf.

He died Friday.



Brother Sheehy, who began working at the Jesuit-operated preparatory school as province vocation director in 1966, was suffering from a rare blood disorder known as hemochromatosis, a condition in which high levels of iron in the blood adversely affects heart muscle tissue.

Brother Sheehy had served in several positions at Brebeuf, including that of counselor and cross-country coach. He was named Brebeuf's fifth president in 1987.

"There's a whole generation of alumni who look on him as a very wonderful, supportive person," said the Rev. James A. Stoeger, principal of Brebeuf. "He encouraged them through thick and thin, and they have come to see him as an important friend and model."

Father Stoeger said Brebeuf's 652 students prayed increasingly for Brother Sheehy after his illness became apparent in April.

"There has been a real sense of sadness, a sense of bewilderment," Father Stoeger said. "He was close to the kids. Students regarded him as important in their lives.

"He (Brother Sheehy) didn't talk about God, but students said they saw in him that God is present in the real world, caring for people. He really helped the school re-examine and re-establish its Jesuit identity."

Under Brother Sheehy's leadership, Brebeuf completed a \$2.5 million campaign to improve school facilities and add endowment funds.

Brother Sheehy also worked with the Marion County Sheriff's Department for 14 years, serving as senior chaplain and director of the Victim Assistance Program until 1987.

He was a member of the board of trustees of Loyola Academy of Chicago and a member of several other organizations, including the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. He also was a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Juvenile Task Force and the Archdiocesan Spirituality Committee.

He was given a key to the city of Indianapolis in 1991 and also was named Sagamore of the Wabash.

Brother Sheehy entered the Novitiate in Milford, Ohio, after completing high school near Chicago, of which he was a native. He later earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Antioch University.

Leppert & Hurt Mortuary is handling arrangements.

Brebeuf students are asked to report for classes at 9 a.m. Monday. They will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. Monday so they may participate in services and calling.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Brother J. Patrick Sheehy, S.J., Memorial Fund, in care of Brebeuf Preparatory School, 2801 West 86th Street, Indianapolis, Ind. 46268.

Survivor: sister, Kathaleen Metzger.