

Jane on behalf of myself, and the parish community of St. Jude – of which you and Ron are founding members – I wish to extend to you our deepest and sincerest sympathies on the loss of your husband, Ron.

For just shy of 60 years – you put your ½ brain together with his ½ brain – and enjoyed a full brain, ----- and a full life, together.

Now, I guess you are down to a half brain – and also, as I'm sure you have come to know – half a heart – as Ron's loss will certainly leave a large hole in you and in your life.

May God give you the grace you need to carry on your journey of life without Ron there *–to be submissive to---* as Ron's favorite Scripture reading from St. Paul would tell us about wives. . .

To Terry, Todd, and Tim --- to your spouses and children – our prayers are also with you as you mourn the loss of your father, father-in-law, and grandfather.

A part of Ron's spirit lives on in each one of you. Cherish the memories you have of him – and continue to nurture his spirit within you.

And to those who have known Ron the longest – his two sisters – what is life like without a big brother? – it will be a new experience for you – and so our prayers are also with you.

Terry, the other day as we stood in your father's hospital room, I glanced over at Ron and said how he looked so vulnerable and helpless. And almost together we said, *"not words we would usually use to describe him."*

What are some of those words we would use? With Terry and Jane's and Pat's help – we came up with a few and I had a few of mine own – they are five in number just in case you wish to keep track. . .

I'll start with Ron's dominate trait: he was a **DETERMINED** individual.

Ron was the man in charge – the go-to person. This probably got its start in a family where he was the oldest – and the only son.

Ron liked living life on his terms – this last time he ended up in the hospital – he walked into the building, determined to make it on his own without help --- he would have driven himself – but Jane did not think that was such a good idea.

Some would say determination is just a polite way of saying Ron was stubborn – and that may be so – but being hard-headed at times assured that things got done. Ron was a determined individual.

Ron also was **PERSISTENT** --- or perhaps – tenacious – which is, by the way, a synonym for stubborn. . .

Almost 60 years of marriage --- which means you must have gotten married when you were about 10, Jane. . .

53 Years in Oak Grove. 44 Years on the farm. 37 years as a parishioner of St. Jude. 32 Years of work at Lake City.

Ron, did not move around a lot ---or--- lose interest too easily – he was persistent.

Ron was also **RESILIENT** – in health he was the come-back kid – nothing was going to get him down or keep him down.

He was the energizer bunny – he kept going and going and going --- often times doing things behind the scenes which no one ever knew about.

Jane, I think you said it well, when you said this last trip to the hospital --- Ron laid down – and everything just kind of caught up with him: even resilience has a life-span.

Ron was **LOVING**: most of all to you Jane. . .

And to Family: the three children, 6 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild – received his attention and his admiration. *But don't spoil them.* Never give them everything they want, even if you are capable of doing that -- always give them something to strive for – which was always Ron's *paternal* advice.

And love of friends – most of which were old friends – that is, friends he had for many years.

Even if a call came at 2 in the morning with someone needing help --- Ron would get up and do it out of love and commitment.

And finally – but those of you who have been counting knew that – Ron was **FAITHFUL**: that is he had a passion for his Catholic faith. Perhaps, too, this is a result of his childhood – growing up in Minnesota, one might expect a Lutheran – but Ron was a cradle Catholic: a faith which sustained him throughout his life.

It might be an exaggeration to say that this parish of St. Jude, and this Church building, would not exist if it weren't for Ron. What isn't an exaggeration is to say the process would have lasted much longer, and involved many more people ----if it had not been for Ron.

His determination, persistence, resilience, and love – all coalesced in this place. Ron saw this parish through its beginnings in a school cafeteria, through the VFW hall and Methodist Church to this place: a church dedicated by Bishop Sullivan in 1992.

When other parishes in Kansas City were closing and consolidating – Ron and others had a dream – and they bought up all they could from those closing parishes: and brought doors and windows and pews and furniture here. And while other's questioned that dream – no one could rain on Ron's parade.

“The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no pain or suffering will ever touch them again.”

What a wonderful place we believe in. A place where nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

And so we boldly say to Ron: “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward--- IS--- great in heaven.”