

Pro-Life Heroes

Patricia



There are myriad reasons why we are Pro-Life. *Pro-Life Heroes* chronicles the activities of everyday people making tremendous sacrifices to defend innocent human Life.

Some would tell Patricia that her husband of twenty-two years, John, is not a productive member of society. John cannot care for himself anymore, and his Alzheimer's disease advanced so that he no longer recognizes his own family. Yet John's wife Patricia is Pro-Life, and she believes that every person has dignity and the Right to Life, no matter what.

Caring for a debilitated husband is no easy task; in fact, some days, the task is overwhelming. Patricia's steadfast patience and love for her husband yields rewards. For instance, Patricia has never left John's side without hearing him ask, "Do you know how much I love you?" She cried as she said, "Some women would give anything to hear that just once."

On days that are particularly painful, like when John acts fearful of his own twenty year-old grandson, Patricia trusts that God is using John to teach the family tremendous lessons. John's situation exemplifies how vulnerable we all are. In an instant, any of us could be the one needing to be fed, washed, and assisted with very basic functions. Patricia has developed creative ways to help this once fiercely independent man, and his gratitude is both immeasurable and palpable. Patricia could easily look away than watch and feel the pain and the struggle of someone succumbing to such a terrifying illness.

Some days are better than others, but the prognosis is clear—the man she loves is not always the one who seems to look at her from behind his familiar eyes. Some days John doesn't have much to say. Often, though, he'll "light up like a Christmas tree," Patricia warmly remembers, "and claim to be the luckiest man alive to have the most beautiful woman in the world" come to visit him. Patricia's heart often breaks, but she then realizes that her heart mends quickly when John recognizes a loved one and relates to her.

Alzheimer's disease has taught Patricia more than some of us will ever know—patience, vigilance, and enduring love. John has learned some difficult lessons, too. This very special couple, with their steadfast spirits and their pious suffering, remind us that Life has some unexpected challenges. Patricia doesn't see John as "useless" or a "drain on her resources." She simply sees him as the man she loves, and she willingly accepts her duty to care for him in sickness and in health. In fact, Patricia is honored that the Lord

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would choose her to serve Him in such a way that others might not experience.

The King will answer: "I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:40