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Brother Patrick Hart was a monk who could be trusted and entrusted with deeply personal and sensitive information, both as an abbatial secretary and as Merton's. Working with the lives of others with great wisdom, tact and organizational skills, he is probably most responsible for guarding the truth and scholarship of Thomas Merton as he is known today. Brother Patrick calls Merton a Father, a Brother, and a faithful Friend; many can say the same thing about Brother Patrick today. In

my times with him, I experienced someone who was equally attentive to and interested in each person, Merton scholar or not. He was first and foremost a monk to all. He was humble. One wonders if he would be sought out in a crowd if he were not Merton's secretary. It would not have concerned him. I remember the graciousness he showed when he began withdrawing from Merton public events because of his health. I saw him at Gethsemani many times at breakfast before terce, engaged in conversation with someone who had come, not just for a Merton question, but for personal advice and counsel. Again, he was trusted and entrusted. He also responded with deep and simple gratitude to any gesture of kindness offered him. I also knew Brother Patrick as a Cistercian monk



**Donna Kristoff, OSU**

and editor, along with Basil Pennington, in their positions at *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* when I accompanied one of our Ursuline sisters, a St. Bernard scholar, to the Medieval Conferences at Kalamazoo annually for many years. "I'll see you at the Zoo," he'd wave to me. Here was another side of Brother Patrick, happy and comfortable in the international Cistercian milieu. Thank you, Brother Patrick, for bearing the burden of loving and being loved so gently.

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**Donna Kristoff, OSU** is an artist, graphic designer and coordinator of the Cleveland Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society.