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For the over forty years that I have had the great pleasure of knowing Brother Patrick Hart there has always been a special section of my heart that was reserved for him. As a young woman I was asked by Naomi Burton Store to be an Assistant to the original Trustees of the Merton Legacy Trust, answering some questions they would receive, writing occasional response letters for various matters. Along the way Brother Patrick and I were introduced by Tommie O’Callaghan – and a happy friendship began. My early and correct impression was that this man who had been Merton’s secretary knew an incalculable amount about Merton’s life, scholarship and output. He became my go-to person at the abbey for the many years I had received queries that needed answers. We last saw each other in the Spring of 2016 when I was visiting the abbey for a Merton retreat. His aging was evident, but certainly not his spirit or his great conversational style. We reminisced then about one very special long-ago time. He had made a visit to New York and accepted my invitation to come to our home for dinner. It was a “just us” occasion – my now late husband Ken McCormick, our young son John and myself – and of course Brother Pat, our special guest who enchanted the whole family with his stories, questions, observations and memorable laugh. What a privilege to be thinking now about that evening and how in the years that followed he always asked me about the family. His not-unexpected death has silenced much about him – but certainly not the precious memories of who and what he was to so many of us. I am so grateful to be part of that enormous extended Thomas Merton family.



Anne H. McCormick is former secretary and current member of the Thomas Merton Legacy Trust.

Anne H. McCormick

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