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Brother Patrick had a way of simply being there for whomever, whenever. When I think of his services to the Gethsemani community and to Thomas Merton, one of its most gifted members, I realize how graced we were to have him in our midst. It was not always easy for him to accept others as they were, but he continually worked at this so that he might be of help to them in whatever circumstances they came to him. He lived very simply but accomplished an amazing amount of good by doing so. One thinks of how he made available to a countless number of readers the wisdom with which Merton was so richly endowed. Patrick's humble work of editing the various writings of Merton allowed him to reach out to countless lives. As one who would spend time with Brother Patrick during the later years of his life, I found him deeply committed to the hidden life of a monk, someone who had a sense of his own unique charism and lived it to the full. There was a shyness about him, a type of humility in which grace was able to flourish. He had often heard from Dom James Fox, his first abbot, how a monk's life is to be unheralded, unknown and unsung. His cooperation with the infirmarians and nurses that cared for him, for in-

stance, was both gracious and sensitive to all that they were asking of him. I suspect that he knew where true greatness lay, in carrying out the will of God in his life. God is able to accomplish wonderful things in each of us as long as we allow the ego to get moved out of center stage so that God's loving presence may become the source of our thoughts and actions. Patrick's caring service gave grace center stage in his life and in this he seemed to find quiet delight. Being the



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instrument of Christ's caring and compassionate touch was his real calling and the number of lives he touched we will never know. Only recently I read *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life* by Henri Nouwen, in which he calls Merton the most outstanding spiritual writer in his own life. As I think of Brother Patrick, I cannot but wonder if it wasn't his quiet labor and selflessness in making Merton known that allowed the Spirit of God to gain access to countless human hearts, like Nouwen's, in our world today. We can only hope and trust his work will continue to bear abundant fruit.

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