

Michael Joseph "Joe" Hester

St. Joseph's College class of R'1959

Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 11:34 AM

To: 'Thomas Sheehan, SemNet

Tom,

Paul Gorman (R53) recently wrote the following note to a few of his friends and classmates after seeing Joe's obit in the Chron. He told me he would not object if you chose to share it with the Semnet community:

The SF Chronicle on Friday carried the obituary of **Michael Joseph "Joe" Hester (80)** who **graduated St. Joseph's College with the Class of '59**. Joe was a Rambler, a super guy, and did a huge amount of direct service all his life. He was a big man in every way, 6' 3" and at least 225#. i cannot recall Joe ever being unkind to anyone. If he bumped you in basketball he would say "sorry". He was one of 'Beaver' 's favorite tenors towering over the choirmaster in a size XL altarboy cassock and white surplus with his booming Irish tenor voice joining Kevin Ryan, Charley Renati, Jim Austin and Phil Anderson. Beaver would absolutely beam.

Joe left the Sem in 1953, served in the military and graduated from Santa Clara where his special assignment was to ring the Angelus every day. Joe took over "Hester and McGuire Paving" until his death and parented so many natural and foster kids you can't count them. Joe gives wonderful meaning to the old term "ex-seminarian" that should make us all proud. Joe was a real stud in the best sense of the word and he chose the path that made sense at the time.

My heart goes out to all his family, especially my classmate Father John Hester, legendary chaplain at Stanford medical Center still. Two saints in one family... and counting.

Paul

Michael Joseph "Joe" Hester April 16, 1932 - May 29, 2012

Heaven gained a new angel on Tuesday as our beloved Dad joined the chorus with his booming Irish tenor. He died peacefully, surrounded by his family and secure in his faith.

Dad was born in Oakland CA to Michael and Maureen Hester of Co. Roscommon Ireland. He attended Catholic schools in Bay Area including Santa Clara University before

being drafted into the U.S. [Army](#) during the Korean Conflict. Upon his return he transitioned straight into his life's work at Mc Guire and Hester in Oakland. His career spanned over 50 years.

Dad was so very proud of all things Catholic, Irish, and Oakland. He was passionate about his family, his work, and committed to education. He was especially generous in support of Catholic education, and headed many projects at Bishop O'Dowd, St. Elizabeth, and St. Joe's High Schools. He followed his father's footsteps in generous support of St. Vincent De Paul and at Holy Names University. As life brought him towards his life dream of a family ranch, which he found in Stonyford CA in 1998, his generosity extended north through organizations and individuals he touched.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Maureen Hester, his daughter Kathleen and his brother Robert.

He is survived by the love of his life, Mary, with whom he shared so close to 50 years of marriage, his brother Fr. John Hester and sister Sr. Maureen Hester, SNJM, and his children Mike (Janice), Pegge (Mike) Deely, Colleen (Paul) Ustach, Kevin (Amy) Hester, John, Moira, Tim, Annie, Matt, Rich and Allen. "Jo-Jo" to his grandchildren Nichola, Tyler, Molly, and Ben Hester; Tina, Jack, Pat, Claire, and Seamus Deely; Kaz, Cy, Stan, and Mary Ustach; and Claudia and Ella Hester. Joe also leaves many nieces and nephews and countless cousins both in the States and Ireland.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Saturday, June 2, at 10 AM at Holy Spirit (Newman Hall) Church in Berkeley.

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