

Dear Friends and Family of Father Christian,

“All praise be yours, my Lord!” This passage is repeated throughout “The Canticle of the Creatures” - one of Father Christian’s favorite writings of his dear Brother St. Francis of Assisi. Father Christian exemplified those simple words. He lived a life of praise through his kindness, his joy, his unflagging service, his compassion and his love for all of life.

We learned of his passing just as we were flying out to our new home in Hawaii.

He was one of my most treasured friends. We met in 1996 at the first meeting of the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council. I was new to the ministry, and a woman. I came from a progressive denomination, yet he graciously treated me with the respect of my title “Reverend” without blinking an eye. We found much common ground - we saw eye to eye on so many topics and had many rich conversations on a variety of subjects from scripture to politics to our love of our work in interfaith understanding. I had a final precious meeting with him at breakfast this past Ash Wednesday when we spent over two hours conversing about many things. Father Christian had asked to take on Compassionate Huntington Beach to continue to remind our community to practice compassion in their daily lives.

My memories of him include many events from the Procession of Light, to Thanksgiving Services when he and my husband Don performed banjo-ukulele duets, to our Interfaith 20th anniversary celebration where Fr. Christian, Rabbi Einstein and I were the “priest, rabbi and minister”, to times when he was a guest in our home. Every meeting with him was a joy.

He was a living example of the Christ life, a man for all people, a beloved priest, a surfer, and most of all, a beloved friend to all who knew him. Perhaps you'll hear the faint echoes of a banjo from time to time - playing one of his favorite melodies to the angels.

Aloha, dear Father Christian, but not goodbye. You will forever remain in our hearts.  
“All praise be yours, my Lord!”

Rev. Dr. Peggy Price