

March-April 2005

HARRY DILK

This is the first time in some twenty years as the Inclusive Community that one of our own members is the central focus of our newsletter. That, in itself, is a tribute to the stature and irreplaceable greatness of Harry Dilk.

It is fitting that the memorial service for Harry, on April 10, should be in the beginning of the Easter Season, near his birthday on April 5 and so close to Good Shepherd Sunday. It is fitting indeed. Harry was an Easter greeting in his very heart. He called us all from our dead and dying selves to new life. He never lost hope and never let us drift into despair.

Jesus once said that sheep know a good shepherd instinctively. The Latin word for shepherd is “pastor”. Harry was always the pastor of this community, not because he wanted to be, not by title and appointment. He was our pastor because of the way he took care of us and because of the way we trusted him.

Jesus also told us that sheep are lost when their shepherd is gone. We feel so lost now! We must be forgiven if we cannot find comfort for a while. We must be given time to find Harry again in our spirits and in our bones. We need space to let Harry still lead us even if we do not see him any more. We must be patient as we look for Harry in a new way. We will do all this because we know, in our hearts, that we cannot ever find a better shepherd than he was.

Jesus said that a good shepherd never leaves the sheep. We hold Jesus to his word. Harry will never leave us. He would not want to leave us. And we shall never let him go.

Anthony Padovano, Pastor