

The Richard I know - Shedding light on a Trailblazer

I had a unique relationship with Richard from the first day I met him. I suppose many of us who were fortunate enough to be in the presence of this remarkable person can say the same.

On Sep 9, 2002 our relationship took on a life of its own. Richard had a way of getting you to hold yourself in high regard. We spent countless hours together at his home creating a vehicle for his message of love, transparency, and information on the internet.

It was on Sep 9, 2002 I offered to work on Richard Sipe dot com. His website kept growing and growing every-time we met at his home. Reports, Essays, Speeches, Interviews and Documents kept pouring out of Richard. As time progressed Richard extended space on his website to trailblazers such as Tom Doyle, Patrick Wall and Sr. Maureen Turlish so they too could get their message out on the internet.

A high point for me in our relationship was when Richard accepted my invitation to be the keynote speaker at the 2003 DignityUSA National Conference in Las Vegas. Dignity is the oldest and largest LGBTQ Catholic organization and it was started here in San Diego by another trailblazer. I was national president at the time. Richard's speech garnered a lot of publicity, as one might guess, and a standing ovation.

His passion for truth and transparency was infectious. I was frequently inspired by Richard to make his website as informative and useful as possible. All these years later his website continues to be a source of information, hope and courage to many. Richard took great pleasure in looking at his visitor statistics which validated his efforts.

When the movie Spotlight hit the screens in 2015 it shed a bright light on the crisis in the Catholic Church. That movie also placed Richard in the spotlight because of his many years of research.

Whenever I was with Richard I knew I was in the presence of wisdom. I shall always cherish my relationship with Richard and continue to make his voice heard loud and clear.

~ Thank you Richard with Love, your friend Pat McArron