FUNERAL: Norman Witt (November 19, 2003)

In Nomine JESU

I met Norm for the first time at Holy Cross in 1992 – or I thought it was for the first time. As we got to know each other later, we discovered that he helped build my parents home in East Detroit, Michigan. I was only in the third grade when he was helping our family friend, Mr. Ginther, build our house so I didn't remember Norm way back then. We became such good friends – Norm was easy to know and love....as all of you know.

I was hired at Holy Cross on a part-time basis in 1992 and I was thrilled to be working with Pastor Carmichael and the wonderful people at Holy cross. Then a couple years later, at a congregational meeting, Norm stood up and asked the council to consider hiring me full-time. He never discussed this with me beforehand – he just got up said he and many others wanted to see me working full-time at Holy Cross. The Church Council took his suggestion under consideration and before you know it I had a new full-time job. Mary Ann and I were thrilled. That's the kind of guy Norm was.

HERE IN SARASOTA, NORM WOULD GIVE ME TAPES & BOOKS & TELL ME HOW INVOLVED & SUPPORTIVE HE WAS OF HIS PASTORS IN MICHIGAN. HE SAID HE EVEN HELPED OUT ONE OF HIS PASTORS BY DOING A FUNERAL SERVICE FOR HIM.

AT DOCTORS' HOSPITAL MARY ANN & I PRAYED WITH NORM AND MARY THAT HE WOULD RECOVER FROM HIS SURGERY AND HEART ATTACKS SO HE COULD GO BACK HOME..... I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER NORM CALLING ME BACK INTO HIS ROOM AND TELLING ME, "YOU CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT PRAYING WITH ME AND I WOULD BOW MY HEAD AND PRAY SOMETHING LIKE: JESUS CHRIST, YOU ARE THE GOOD SHEPHERD! YOU LAID DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR US SHEEP! YOU SAID, MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE AND I KNOW THEM AND THEY FOLLOW ME AND NO ONE, NO ONE WILL EVER SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND