

Paddy you have been a profound great leader, leading by example. One would not hear from your words that you are a great leader and activist and founder of DHC, but from actions and all the awards that you have received, newspapers, media and books that you have written. Your humbleness was amazing, respect for young and old people, rich and poor, political leaders and homeless and your passion for marginalised groups.

I remember the time when the old Parish Centre was to be demolished to build the new DHC. Paddy involved every age group which I would not have thought was necessary till Paddy explained that people had embedded emotions towards the centre: others were students there, children and youth had their catechism there, sodalities and all parish meetings are held in the centre; to them it's like death of a family member.

I realised this on the day when Paddy had arranged that on Sunday before demolition, all Parishioners should go and write their messages or whatever they want to do on the Parish centre walls to say 'bye, bye' as the memory to the centre. I was shocked to see my youngest son holding on the wall and crying, asking if it could not be left till he finished his classes, saying it was like home where he met with church friends and catechism teachers. The collection of messages of all age group which were written were such important messages. That helped us when I was in the think tank group to strategise, using them as inputs from the Parish. Paddy had summarised all those writings that were written on the wall before it was demolished.

I learnt a lot from this, it showed Paddy's intelligent and leadership experience.

I will remember Paddy for exposing me to the think tank committee. Working with Paddy in the think tank was my first time to know about such dialogue. I told Paddy that I did not have such experience, I have not worked for an NPO or where a new structure was to be developed and his answer was "we need such people who will scratch their skulls and think what needed to be done from a blank slate."

I remember when Paddy indicated during the think tank meeting that it was very important to know our neighbours and physically meet them, let them know who we are and about to produce. I stay in Durban but I never knew that Berea station has so many small and medium scale businesses with different entrepreneurship skills and interfaith denominations. Paddy respected other faiths. As a Catholic I never felt it was important, but Paddy taught me and other think tank committee members the importance of mixing with and learning from other faiths more especially for DHC as one of Archbishop Hurley's passion was interfaith engagement and discourse.

Paddy will be remembered for having no colour bias. He fought against apartheid: a fact was a fact. I had never had him talking politics but I would see this from the different groups he was mixing with and different trusts he was serving in and history of organisations he found and worked for like Diakonia. Paddy would never mind if he was alone of his colour among other colours; he would continue the dialogue to achieve planned goals as a goal directed leader.

Paddy was a man of peace, I learnt this when we were in different committees at church where people were raising their voices discussing tough issues Paddy will raise points like a mediator softly, well thought of points and will calm down all of us. Paddy was a man of hope even when things were difficult fundraising for DHC, he worked tirelessly, source of encouragement to the team he was working with visiting all Parishes in the Diocese, spending sleepless nights writing proposals to different prospective funders globally, we will only get reports of positive results. The way that Paddy chaired meetings with great respect for all members and encouraged every one to participate in the discussions.

He will be remembered for his writing skills, I would say Paddy was a historian, I know History of Bishop Hurley from Childhood till the time he passed on from Paddy's books. I would not have known of Vatican II if it was not through Paddy's writings. I have never thought that collection of letters can be put together to a book Paddy never forgot to thank all the authors and editors of all his books, even small pieces of information from people he would thank them for their inputs, a great lesson in deed for young authors.

I can write pages and pages about Paddy, he fought a good fight. Let me end by extending condolences to the family, friends and friends of the DHC, God did not want Paddy to feel pain when He calls him home, May his soul rest in peace and have eternal rest..

We will remember Paddy as Emmanuel Catholic Nurses Guild as one of the Patrons whom we had hoped to learn a lot of skills regarding managing of an NPO and sourcing of funding which he had started already networking for us.

Rest in peace Hero.

Be blessed,

Nondumiso Shangase

(One of the original members of the DHC Working Group and the DHC Board of Trustees)