

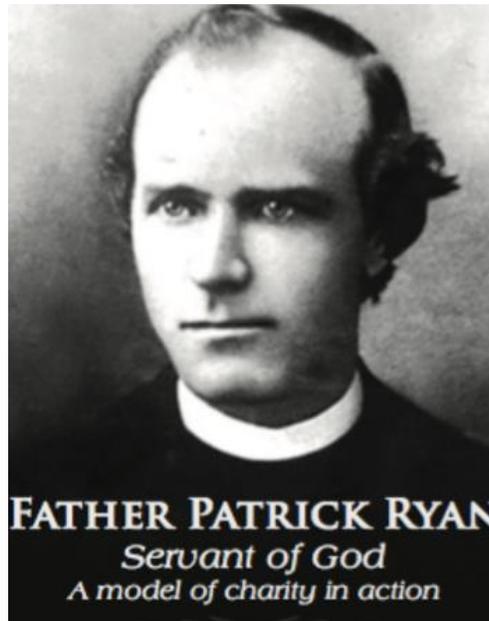


*The Basilica of Sts.  
Peter and Paul*

The Cause  
for the Beatification and Canonization of the  
Servant of God  
Patrick Ryan,  
Priest of Chattanooga



*The Diocese of  
Knoxville*



First Session of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Knoxville  
for the Inquiry That Will Examine  
the Life, Virtues, Offering of Life, Reputation of Holiness, and Signs of  
Intercessory Power  
of the Servant of God  
Father Patrick Ryan  
(1844-1878)

September 28, 2020

at

The Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

# Prelude and Processional

Sicut Cervus, Giovanni da Palestrina

*As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. – Psalm 42:2*

O God, beyond All Praising – Organ Processional

## Liturgy of the Hours Mid-Morning Prayer

Office of the Dead for the Season of Ordinary Time

*Stand and make the sign of the cross*

**Bishop Stika:** God, come to my assistance.

**All:** Lord, make haste to help me!

**All:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

### Hymn



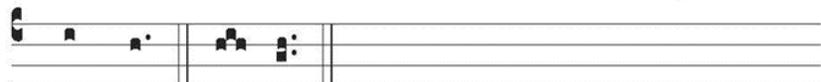
1. Come, Ho- ly Spir- it, ev- er one With God  
2. May mind and heart, made strong in love, Your praise  
3. To God the Fa- ther, God the Son, And God



1. the Fa- ther and the Son, It is the hour,  
2. through- out the world pro- claim, And may that love  
3. the Spir- it, Three in One, Let praise re- sound



1. our souls pos- sess With your full flood of ho-  
2. with- in our hearts Set fire to o- thers with  
3. and nev- er die From saints and an- gel hosts



1. li- ness.  
2. its flame.  
3. on high. A- men.

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*Psalm 85*

*Our salvation is near*

*God blessed the land when our Savior came to earth (Origen).*

*Sit*

**Fr. Carter:** O Lord, you once *avored your* **land**, \*

**Joseph Side:** and revived the fortunes of Jacob,

**Mary Side:** you forgave the guilt *of your* **people** \*  
and covered all their sins.

**Joseph Side:** You averted *all your* **rage**, \*  
you calmed the heat of your anger.

**Mary Side:** Revive us now, *God, our* **helper!** \*  
Put an end to your grievance against us.

**Joseph Side:** Will you be angry with *us for* **ever**, \*  
will your anger never cease:

**Mary Side:** Will you not restore *again our* **life** \*  
that your people may rejoice in you?

**Joseph Side:** Let us see, O *Lord, your* **mercy**, \*  
and give us your saving help.

**Mary Side:** I will hear what the Lord God *has to* **say**, \*  
a voice that speaks of peace,

**Joseph Side:** peace for his people *and his* **friends** \*  
and those who turn to him in their hearts.

**Mary Side:** His help is near for *those who* **fear** him \*  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

**Joseph Side:** Mercy and faithfulness *have* **met**; \*  
justice and peace have embraced.

**Mary Side:** Faithfulness shall spring *from the* **earth** \*  
and justice look down from heaven.

**Joseph Side:** The Lord will *make us* **prosper** \*  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

**Mary Side:** Justice shall *march before* him \*  
and peace shall follow his steps.

*Stand and bow for the doxology*

**Joseph Side:** Glory to the Father, and *to the* Son, \*  
and to the Holy Spirit:

**Mary Side:** as it was in the *beginning, is* **now**, \*  
and will be for ever. Amen.

*Sit*

*Psalm 86*

*The prayer of the poor man in distress*

*Blessed by God who comforts us in all our trials (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).*

*Sit*

**Fr. Carter:** Turn your ear, O Lord, *and give answer* \*

**Joseph Side:** for I am poor and needy.

**Mary Side:** Preserve my life, for *I am faithful*: \*  
save the servant who trusts in you.

**Joseph Side:** You are my God, have mercy *on me*, **Lord**, \*  
for I cry to you all the day long.

**Mary Side:** Give joy to your servant, *O Lord*, \*  
for to you I lift up my soul.

**Joseph Side:** O Lord, you are good *and forgiving*, \*  
full of love to all who call.

**Mary Side:** Give heed, O Lord, *to my prayer* \*  
and attend to the sound of my voice.

**Joseph Side:** In the day of distress *I will call* \*  
and surely you will reply.

**Mary Side:** Among the gods there is none like *you*, **O Lord**; \*  
nor work to compare with yours.

**Joseph Side:** All the nations shall come *to adore* you \*  
and glorify your name, O Lord:

**Mary Side:** for you are great and do *marvelous deeds*, \*  
you who alone are God.

**Joseph Side:** Show me, Lord, your way †  
so that I may walk *in your truth*. \*  
Guide my heart to fear your name.

**Mary Side:** I will praise you, Lord my God, with *all my heart* \*  
and glorify your name for ever;

**Joseph Side:** for your love to me *has been great*: \*  
you have saved me from the depths of the grave.

**Mary Side:** The proud have risen against me; †  
ruthless men *seek my life*: \*  
to you they pay no heed.

**Joseph Side:** But you, God of mercy *and compassion*, \*  
slow to anger, O Lord,

**Mary Side:** abounding in *love and truth*, \*  
turn and take pity on me.

**Joseph Side:** O give your strength *to your servant* \*  
and save your handmaid's son.

**Mary Side:** Show me a sign of your favor †  
that my foes may see *to their shame* \*  
that you console me and give me your help.

*Stand and bow for the doxology*

*Stand and bow for the doxology*

**Joseph Side:** Glory to the Father, and *to the Son*, \*  
and to the Holy Spirit:

**Mary Side:** as it was in the *beginning*, is **now**, \*  
and will be for ever. Amen.

### *Antiphon*

**All:** Look on me with *love*, **O Lord**, \*  
and rescue me.

*Sit*

### Reading

*Job 19:25-26a*

**Dcn. Gaspar:** I know that my Vindicator lives  
and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust;  
And from my flesh I shall see God.

### Verse

*Remain seated*

**Fr. Carter:** Why are you heavy, my heart, why are you so **anxious**?  
**All:** — Put your hope in God, for I will praise him **still**.

## The First Session of the Inquiry

*Remain seated*

*Welcome by Dcn. Gaspar DeGaetano, Diocesan Postulator*

*Oaths of Dcn. Gaspar DeGaetano and Bishop Richard Stika*

*Commentary on the Life of Fr. Patrick Ryan by Dcn. Gaspar DeGaetano*

*Oaths of Episcopal Delegate, Promoter of Justice, and Notaries*

Presentation of Documents for the Archive

# Concluding Prayer

*Mid-Morning Prayer concludes with the final prayer extended by Bishop Stika.*

*Stand*

**Bishop Stika:** Let us praise the Lord.

**All:** And give Him thanks.

## Prayer for Fr. Patrick Ryan

**All:** Heavenly Father, who inspired the Servant of God, Father Patrick Ryan, former pastor of this parish, to be a model of charity in action during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, grant, we beseech You, that his heroic charity be recognized by Your Church, and that he be elevated to the full honor of sainthood. May we, too, be inspired by his example to that same measure of charity toward all our brothers and sisters in need. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

**All:** *St. Michael the Archangel*, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

## Recessional

Te Deum, Marc-Antoine Charpentier – Organ

## Interlude of Sacred Motets

Ecce Quomodo Moritur Justus, Jacob Handl

*Behold how the righteous man dies and no one understands. Righteous men are taken away and no one considers: The righteous man has been taken away from present iniquity and his memory shall be in peace. His place is in peace, and his home is in Sion. And his memory shall be in peace. His place is made in peace, he resides in Sion. – from Is 57:1-2*

Pie Jesu from *Requiem*, John Rutter

*Sweet Lord Jesus, Grant them everlasting rest. – from the Dies Irae Sequence of the traditional Mass for the Dead*

He That Shall Endure from *Elijah*, Felix Mendelssohn

*He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved. – Mt. 24:13*

**Mass for the Dead for a Priest**  
for the repose of the soul of  
Father Patrick Ryan, former Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul  
celebrated at 12:00 pm  
*Most Rev. Richard F. Stika, Bishop of Knoxville, Celebrant  
and concelebrating bishops and priests*

**Entrance**

Entrance Antiphon: *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*  
Penitential Rite: *I confess... Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

**Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading – Wisdom 3:1-9  
Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 23  
Second Reading – Romans 6:3-9  
Gospel Acclamation – 2 Timothy 2:11b-12a  
Gospel – Luke 23:33, 39-43

**Offertory**

Offertory Antiphon:

*O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the departed faithful from the sufferings of hell and from the deep pit; deliver them from the mouth of the lion, may they not be swallowed up by hell, may they not fall into darkness; but may Saint Michael, the standardbearer, present them in holy light as you promised long ago to Abraham and his descendants.*

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Sanctus ~ Memorial Acclamation ~ Our Father ~ Agnus Dei

Communion Antiphon: *May light eternal shine, O Lord, upon them, for endless ages with thy blessed ones, for thou art gracious.*

Swearing in of the Officials for the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of Knoxville

Re-installation of Very Rev. J. David Carter as Pastor and Rector of the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul

**Recessional and Postlude**

In Paradisum, Gregorian chant

Exsultate Justi, Ludovico da Viadana – *Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just; praise befits the upright. Give praise to the Lord on the harp; sing to him with the psaltery, the instrument of ten strings. Sing to him a new canticle, sing well unto him with a loud noise. – Ps 32(33):1-3*

# Acknowledgments

His Eminence S. R. E. Justin Cardinal Rigali  
Most Rev. Richard F. Stika, DD, Bishop of Knoxville  
Most Rev. J. Mark Spalding, DD, JCL, Bishop of Nashville  
Very Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, JV, Pastor and Rector of the Basilica  
Rev. Valentin Iurochkin and Rev. Moises Moreno, Parochial Vicars of the Basilica  
Dcn. Sean K. Smith, Chancellor of the Diocese of Knoxville  
Dcn. Hicks Armor, Dcn. Gaspar DeGaetano, and Dcn. Tom McConnell of the Basilica

## *All Concelebrating Priests All Assisting Deacons*

### *Dignitaries*

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann Honorable Jeffrey M. Atherton, Hamilton County Chancellor

### *Officials for the Cause of Sainthood of Fr. Patrick Ryan*

Dcn. Gaspar DeGaetano, *Diocesan Postulator* Most Rev. Richard Frank Stika, DD, *Bishop of Knoxville*  
Very Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, JV, *Episcopal Delegate* Rev. Dr. John Arthur Orr, PhD, *Promoter of Justice*  
Dcn. Hicks Armor, *Notary* Rebecca Dempsey and Jennifer Morris, *Adjunct Notaries*

### *Historical Commission*

Br. Reginald Cruz, John Hilgeman, Michael Meehan, Mary Portera, † Barbara DeGaetano (in memoriam)

### *Witnesses to Intercessory Favors of the Servant of God*

*Knights of Columbus Fr. Patrick Ryan Council 610*  
*Knights of Columbus Fr. Patrick Ryan 4th Degree Assembly 1084*  
*Knights of Columbus Assembly 3250*  
*Knights of Columbus Honor Guard from Assembly 1084 and 3250*

*Altar Servers* – Drew Bieszad, Cormac Cooper, Isaac Kyle, Mark Laurell, Frank Villegas  
*Lector* – Brandon Panganiban *Choir* – Gloria Dei Schola *Organist* – Andrea Tierney

### *Hospitality*

Ushers, Traffic Guides, Cleaning Volunteers of the Basilica  
Serra Club of Chattanooga

*If you would like to contribute financially to the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Father Patrick Ryan, please write a check payable to The Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, and indicate in the memo field, "Cause for Father Ryan". Donations to the Cause for Father Ryan can also be made through the Basilica's Online Giving at [www.stspeterandpaulbasilica.com](http://www.stspeterandpaulbasilica.com). Thank you for your generosity.*

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## Commentary on the Life of Fr. Patrick Ryan

*This biography was adapted from "The Centenary" of Sts Peter and Paul Parish, Chattanooga,*

*Compiled by Father George Flanigan with the Imprimatur of William L. Adrian, Bishop of Nashville July 7, 1952, published by the Parish.*

Father Patrick Ryan, pastor of the parish of Saints Peter and Paul from 1872 to 1878, was a shepherd who gave his life in ministering to his flock. He died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 on September 28, the day before his 34th birthday.

In the six years that he was at the parish, he enlarged a little frame church on Lindsay Street, built a rectory on Georgia Avenue, and zealously tended his flock. He was also responsible for the opening of Notre Dame Academy under the direction of the Dominican Sisters. Notre Dame continues to this day as Notre Dame High School, the oldest non-governmental school in Chattanooga.

A magnificent tribute was paid Father Ryan in 1886, when his remains were exhumed from downtown Chattanooga to be reburied at the grand opening of Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in East Ridge. A long cortège followed his body to the new cemetery on the east side of Missionary Ridge from downtown Chattanooga, before there was even a tunnel through the ridge. Imagine the effort and time it took to make the trip up the ridge in those horse and buggy days! This is only one of the important proofs to us of the reputation of holiness and the devotion the people of Chattanooga held for this martyr of charity.

Patrick Ryan was born on September 29, 1844, near Nenagh, County Tipperary, Ireland. He was of a good family, but his parents were evicted from their home by a ruthless landlord and forced to emigrate. They settled in New York, where Patrick grew to young manhood.

Ryan entered St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in October, 1866. Although he was no genius, says one of his schoolmates, he was one of the soundest and most reliable students in the seminary and was noted for his common sense. He excelled in athletics, and few could compete with him in hand, foot or base ball.

He was ordained a priest in the summer of 1869 at the Cathedral in Nashville by Bishop Feehan. After his ordination, Father Ryan was appointed pastor of Clarksville and its missions for three years.

Bishop Feehan, cognizant of the prudence and priestly zeal of Father Ryan, transferred him to the larger field of labors in Chattanooga. He took charge here on July 10, 1872.

He is described as almost impetuous in his efforts to make his parishioners practical as well as professing Catholics. Having recovered somewhat from the ravages of the Civil War, Chattanooga was growing by leaps and bounds. In the decade from 1870-1880, the population increased from 6,093 to 12,892.

The little frame church on Lindsay Street, which Father Brown, the first Pastor of Chattanooga, had completed in 1847, proved too small for the growing congregation. Father Ryan enlarged it, and this enlarged church served the parish until the present beautiful edifice in which we are now gathered was being built and completed in 1890.

In 2011 this Basilica was designated by Pope Benedict as a Minor Basilica. The church bell that now hangs and regularly rings in this Basilica bell tower calls people to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and rings out the Angelus three times a day. It bears the date of 1873 and the name of Rev. P. Ryan, Pastor, cast in bronze on its side. It also rings at the consecration during each Mass to announce to the city of Chattanooga the mysterious presence of Christ in the Eucharist, God with us, even unto the end of ages. This bell was likely first used at the Lindsay Street Church. It was also likely blessed by Father Patrick Ryan, and as such may be considered a second-class relic. We can muse, tongue in cheek, that the sound from that bell can be thought of as a third-class relic every time she's heard!

The first two years Father Ryan was in Chattanooga, he had to take care not only of the city but also of most of the southeastern part of the state, a far-reaching field of mission.

The parish, since the beginning, had always maintained a school for its children under the supervision of the priests. But this was a makeshift affair where all grades were taught by one lay man or woman in the basement of the church. Father Ryan prevailed on the Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia congregation, who had been established in Nashville 16 years previously, to send out their first foundation to Chattanooga.

On Jan. 6, 1876, four Dominican Sisters arrived and immediately began preparations for the opening of Notre Dame de Lourdes Academy. The sisters really conducted two schools. "In addition to the parochial school," Father Ryan said to them on arrival, "you will find it necessary to carry on a select school, otherwise you will not make support, few as are your needs. My people are numerically small and also they are poor; the exceptions consist of only two or three families."

Notre Dame de Lourdes Academy, a select school for girls, "a higher institute than the parochial school," was housed in the former rectory, which also served as a home for the sisters.

Some of Chattanooga's most influential citizens were patrons of the new institution, and teachers of marked ability worked to give the school a high standard.

Father Ryan had faced many difficulties in his administration of the parish. When he arrived the city was just recovering from a series of disastrous fires that had destroyed much of the business district. A cholera epidemic threatened the population in 1873. In 1875 a big flood came. And now in 1878, the horrible yellow fever appeared on the scene!

Because it had escaped previous visitations of this epidemic, Chattanooga considered itself protected by its mountains. In offering hospitality to people of neighboring cities, where the fever had broken out, it gave refugees a chance to introduce the scourge within its own limits.

On Sept. 18, 1878, the first case of yellow fever in Chattanooga was diagnosed. The patient died within a day.

Within a few days, the fever was declared "epidemic," and four fifths of the population began to hurry from the stricken city. Before the deadly work was past, 366 citizens lost their lives, a high percentage of the citizenry of that day.

Father Ryan and Jonathan W. Bachman, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, were among the 1,800 people remaining in the city. They were good friends, and when Father Ryan was stricken, he was visited by Dr. Bachman.

Father Ryan is described by an eyewitness as "going from house to house in the worst-infected section of the city to find what he could do for the sick and needy." He continued ministering to his flock after he himself had contracted the dread disease - to within 48 hours of his death.

He was stricken on Sept. 26. On the morning of the 27th, he was reported much worse, but the evening of that same day he was visited by Dr. Luke Blackburn (afterward Governor of Kentucky) who reported that everything seemed to favor recovery.

"He was cheerful and chatty," said Dr. Blackburn, and remarked that Bishop Feehan had telegraphed asking how he was. "I told him if he wished I would send a dispatch to the Bishop on reaching the telegraph office. This I did, saying 'Father Ryan is much better and will recover, I think.' When I heard of Father's death, it astonished me more than an earthquake would have done."

The heroic priest died September 28, after having received the last sacraments from the hands of his younger brother, the Reverend Michael Ryan. Father Michael, who had just been ordained, had come to Chattanooga a few days before to spend a short vacation with his brother. The shock of his brother's tragic death so undermined the young priest's health that, after a few years' service in Nashville, he retired to St. Louis, where he died shortly afterwards.

The news of Father Ryan's death was carried by the press wires, and within a few hours the Rev. John Bertazzi came from Savannah, Georgia. Father John conducted the funeral, and Father Ryan's body was buried in the church yard which I believe would be to my left towards Georgia Avenue.

"Bury me in Chattanooga among my people," was Father Ryan's last request.

For eight years his grave was a hallowed spot, kept beautiful by the hands of those who revered the memory of this great priest who offered his life in the cause of charity, another of our important proofs of his reputation for holiness.

When Mount Olivet Cemetery was formally opened Nov. 11, 1886, Father Ryan's remains were carried in solemn procession to the new cemetery. It was a fitting occasion to pay the tribute of honor won by the priest who stuck to his post in the time of trial.

The church was filled an hour before services were scheduled to start. Bishop Rademacher, officiating at the first Pontifical Requiem Mass ever sung in Chattanooga, was assisted by six priests. The Chalice used at that Mass was a Chalice given to the first pastor of Sts Peter and Paul, Father Henry Brown, upon his ordination in Rome, by Blessed Pope Pius IX. We believe a Chalice found here at the Basilica and refurbished through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus is likely that Chalice, and it will be used today at the noon Mass. This Chalice was also likely used by Father Patrick Ryan.

Father William Walsh preached this Requiem Mass. In his sermon spoke of the self-sacrifice and generosity of the deceased and read a letter he had received from Father Ryan, early in September 1878, in which the latter expressed the wish that he might come to Memphis to help out in the epidemic that was then raging there.

The letter reads as follows:

*"My Dear Father Walsh: I have written and dispatched to Memphis and cannot hear anything from you. I again try to hear from you, as I know you are still living. Can't I hear from you? Just one line will satisfy. You do not know my anxiety.*

*I have heard with regret, about the deaths of Fathers Welsh and Meagher. My God! are we to lose all our priests! I could have been with you about the 15th of last month, but the Bishop promising to go to Knoxville, I did not wish to be away. I wished since that I had been to Memphis. Perhaps it's not too late yet. I*

will go, should the Bishop let me. I am going to Nashville this week. I have heard that Fathers Riordan and McNamara are down with the fever; I hope to hear of their recovery.”

He relates news about a charitable contribution and concludes by saying:

*“I trust in God I shall hear better news from you, and that you are still well. My prayers, if they avail anything, are for your safety. May God, in His great mercy, give you strength and courage to bear up against this terrible calamity.*

*Will you be kind enough to write or dispatch to me on receipt of this, and believe me to be ever*

*Your most faithful friend,*

P. RYAN.

*P.S.— As I cannot live without ye, I will go and die with ye. P.R.”*

Father Walsh testified that Father Ryan clearly offered his life in that prophetic letter by him stating to Walsh that “I will go [to Memphis, where the yellow fever was raging], should the Bishop let me”, and then including in his postscript what we surmise to be a poetic reference:

*“P.S.— As I cannot live without ye, I will go and die with ye. P.R.”*

After the stirring sermon, the Requiem Mass continued in the usual way. When the procession left the church to go towards the cemetery, it consisted of more than 100 carriages. As the cortège passed along Market Street, hundreds stopped on the sidewalks to gaze respectfully at the hearse. Father Gleeson had invited Dr. Bachman and the members of the relief committee of 1878 to a place of honor in procession.

The noble priest's remains were interred at the highest spot in the cemetery, on Priests' Mound, where they remain to this day. The monument over the grave is inscribed:

REV. P. RYAN  
DIED  
SEPT. 28, 1878  
DURING THE EPIDEMIC  
THE JUST SHALL BE IN EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE  
REST  
IN  
PEACE

We are in the process, with the approval of the Hamilton County Chancery Court and the Vatican, to build a tomb under the last station of the cross to my left so that his remains might be brought back to the parish where he served, so that his mortal remains might be among his people once again.

In 1901, the Chattanooga council of the Knights of Columbus, Council 610, was organized. But it was only named the Father Patrick Ryan Council around 1915 in honor of the priest who, by his high ideals, his devotion to duty, his spirit of sacrifice for his congregation and his city, seemed to exemplify the aims and purposes of the new order. Once again, we find another piece of evidence for his reputation for holiness. How wonderful that his memory had survived some 37 years after his death, that he was honored in such a way! But his memory did not die here, either. Around 1928, the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly 1084 also took his name, to further raise up this man of God as an exemplary cause for the men of Chattanooga to emulate.

Perhaps no better eulogy of Father Ryan could be written than that which appeared in an editorial in the Chattanooga Times Nov. 12 1886:

*“The reburial of Father Patrick Ryan yesterday roused into vivid realization the terrible scene of September and October, 1878, in the retrospective vision of all who were his co-workers in that trying season.*

*The brave and faithful priest literally laid down his life in the cause of humanity. Only the morning before he was stricken with the deadly pestilence, [this] writer met him on his rounds of mercy in the worst infected section of the city. Cheerfully but resolutely he was going from house to house to find what he could do for the sick and needy.*

*Then the work of the destroyer was upon him, but he looked the one whose spirit had conquered the flesh, like one so absorbed in [] dangers of afflictions of his fellow men that he was unconscious of personal suffering, unmindful of personal evil.*

*We shall never, to the hour we close our eyes for the last time, forget the unselfish and efficient work of Father Ryan and his elder eminent brother, Father John. It was peculiarly meet and very touching the respect shown the dead father's remains yesterday by many of the chief survivors of that terrible fall. This was without regard to religious connections, as it should be. They were on a level then. The yellow scourge was no respecter of persons or creeds.”*

So ends the editorial of 1886.

Our Servant of God Father Patrick Ryan courageously served in an epidemic that struck Chattanooga 142 years ago. Who would have ever thought that we would be living through an infectious epidemic in the USA in our own lifetimes?

The time of Father Ryan's Cause has clearly come!