

Richard Landry

by Doug Kent

It was already cold in Portland Maine on October 6, 1948 when our Mr. May (Mr. M) was born to his hard working parents. Things were not easy for the family and both parents worked while Mr. M and his sister attended Catholic grade school, taught in both English and French. Studies were not easy for Mr. M but he managed to graduate High School in 1967. After one year in Business School he took a job with a construction company and stayed until 1973. He then entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland in 1974. With no college prep courses in high school, study was hard but with support and academic help he managed to graduate in 1978 with his degree in Philosophy. Because further education was required for priesthood, he attended Mount Saint Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland and eventually found out that the seminary and religious life was not for him.

He returned home and worked in various jobs due to the fact that the economy was not doing well. His hobby of Floral Design gave him the opportunity to manage a floral shop for the next 8 years. An opportunity was presented to work for a hardware distributor. He worked hard and was promoted to a position that required traveling to do store set-ups. Great work at first, but the travel and being gone all week got old fast, so he returned to the floral industry for the next 14 years.

Concerned about his financial future, he took an office position at a wastewater treatment plant and this gave him the ability to save for his eventual retirement. After 14 years of dedicated service, he retired and moved to Tamarac, Florida in June of 2013.

Mr. M realized that he was gay in his early teens. He was not very active until after his college years. He had several relationships and friendships over the years. Three stand out, however. A college friend, who had become a priest, became his closest traveling companion for many years. Another was a 50 year old retired banker he had met at the beach. They shared the love of yard sales, and did a lot of other things together. The third was a snow bird priest who vacationed in Dania Beach. He would invite Mr. M to join him in Dania and this is how Mr. M acquired his love of South Florida.

All three have since passed on to a better place and are greatly missed by Mr. M to this day.

Being severely overweight since age 5 has taking its toll on Mr. M, so in 2007 Mr. M decided to get gastric bypass surgery. Over a considerable amount of time, he managed to lose 145 pounds. At age 59, this was the first time he had been admitted to a hospital. Mr. M was more concerned with the admission than the actual operation. With support and the help of close friends, Mr. M survived the hospitalization and has managed to keep his weight in check.

Mr. M is allergic to snow and loves living here in South Florida. He is 100 miles from his sister, close enough and far enough for comfort. He continues to go to his favorite Thrift Shops and loves to search for bargains at the Swap Shop. He is active with the Prime Timers and helps out at Bocce and is an avid reader. He still helps out at a floral shop during peak floral times, but enjoys being RETIRED. This Prime Timer is a firm believer in the circle of life, maintains a very positive attitude and tries to avoid the extraneous "Drama" of life. His philosophy is simple, "Treat all as you would like to be treated". He wants all to remember, your legacy will be written on what you do for others and not yourself.

