



Iginio (Gene) Paolo Carlo Fontana

November 29, 1932 - September 30, 2017

1932-2017

Iginio Fontana, age 84, passed away on Sept 30, 2017. He was born in Shanghai, China to Italian parents. He and his family immigrated to America in 1939. He attended Minor and Major Seminary where received a BA in philosophy and MA in Rhetoric English. He also had an MA in Education and an AA in Viticulture. He was fluent in five different languages.

He was ordained a diocesan priest in 1959, serving parishes in Petaluma, Eureka, Arcata, Santa Rosa, and opening a parish in McKinleyville. He served as a paralegal under the Diocese's Canon law Attorney. In 1971 he left the priesthood to pursue teaching. He taught at Shearer Elementary School for 24 years, where he taught all grades except sixth.

He wrote a book, Early Napa Vintages. He sang with the Vineyard Valley Singers. He will be remembered for his humor, quick smile, and his intelligence.

His father, mother and two sisters preceded him in death. He leaves behind three step children and numerous nephews and nieces. Memorial donations may be made to Collabria Care.

Comments



“ May you rest in peace great great uncle Iginio!



Jessica Fitzpatrick - May 29, 2018 at 03:09 AM



“ 25 -30 years ago, give or take, Gene's class and mine in Michigan hooked up through Weekly Reader to be pen pals. Gene and I corresponded annually ever since. He was a kind, intelligent man. I was so sad to have my Christmas card returned stamped "death"! I will miss him and his constant invitations to visit wine country. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord!

Jane Gee - January 17, 2018 at 02:45 PM



“ I met Iginio in 2000 when we were both working for COPIA prior to its opening. He worked as a volunteer, and played a key role in growing the quality and quantity of books at COPIA's food & wine library. Iginio always shared interesting stories about his life, was an expert in Napa wine history and wine lore, and even spoke and wrote Greek! The depth and breath of his knowledge was impressive, yet what I appreciated most were his personal attributes: his bright smile, optimistic outlook, eagerness to help, sense of humor, and loyal friendship. I moved to Florida in 2002 and we kept in touch over the years. The last time I saw him was during a trip I made to Napa in 2012, where this photo of us having lunch at the Oxbow Public Market was taken. I'll always remember Iginio fondly...ciao, caro! Athena Yannitsas



Athena Yannitsas - November 06, 2017 at 04:37 PM



“ Gene was such an intelligent and genuinely kind man. He was interested in so many things, which made him so interesting to talk to. I always enjoyed our conversations, especially hearing stories about his fascinating life. Deepest sympathies to his loved ones.

Joanne Sutro and all Gene's friends at Collabria Care

Joanne Sutro - October 19, 2017 at 08:12 PM



“ I worked at Shearer school when Gene worked there. What an imaginative, wonderful teacher he was. So sorry for your loss. Deepest sympathy's are sent your way. Hope all the happy memories of him can get you through this time of sorrow.
Lynda and Guiducci family

Lynda Guiducci - October 15, 2017 at 11:34 AM