

Pablo Sierra, M.D.



Paying homage to a heroic end
(1969-2017)

Pablo Sierra gave to me the gift of his friendship. We shared assistance and management activities at the time that the Austral University Hospital was having its foundation laid; in both he left me the remaining memory that only exemplary persons can—virtuous at the time of practicing medicine, prudent at the time of giving an opinion, a loyal friend and a joyful mate.

In ancient Greece, the “beautiful death” (*kalos thánatos*) was the glorious death (*eukleés thánatos*). A hero, by dying under courageous circumstances (e.g. Achilles) lived on in everybody’s memory, making the disappeared warrior’s glory remain.

The man sticks naturally to life, especially when he believes in eternal life the least. When the process that precedes the end is plenty of physical suffering, both the patient and his loved ones undergo a tension which words can hardly express.

It takes sound faith and hope to face life’s most difficult times.

Pablo Sierra and his family have been to me an example of Christian virtue.

“Christianity is never obliged to accept pain for pain’s sake; the acceptance of physical pain is nothing but a way among many others to convey what is essential: the will to love and serve God. The perfection of this willpower underlies the quality of Christian life and its heroism” (Pio XII).

I am sure that Pablo is deservedly enjoying eternal life. I will have him as intercessor with God thinking about my patients’ needs and my own.

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