
Jean-Francois Orsini

David Pittman, an inventor, entrepreneur, scientist, mechanical engineer, cabinetmaker, Dominican tertiary, and a Catholic of great faith and devotion, died on February 5, 2009, of pancreatic cancer in Cumming, Georgia. He was 66, just nine days short of his 67th birthday.

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1942, David lived in Maryland most of his life. He earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland. While at the University of Maryland, he joined the Civil Air Patrol and became a licensed private pilot. He also was a member of the University's tumbling/gymnastic team. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed camping, hiking, and boating.

His father founded Pittcon Industries, located in Riverdale, Maryland. David later came to work with his father and eventually took over the business, greatly expanding its scope.

He was converted to Catholicism through the prayers and actions of his wife Patrice as well as his own prayers. Patrice asked him to join her in the Catholic faith when they were married in 1978. Shortly after they were married, Patrice went on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal and brought home a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima. David fell in love with the statue, beginning a life-long devotion to Our Lady. At that time he was struggling with some problems involving his business, and he was moved to open the Bible. He immediately saw the sentence, “and David spoke to the Lord and the Lord answered David.” The passage spoke to his heart, and he felt an immediate answer to his call upon the Lord, leading to an ever-closer relationship with Christ in his daily life. David often said he felt the Lord in his heart, guiding him, and he often remarked that he was always conversing with our Lord.

He joined the Immaculate Conception chapter of the Dominican Laity (Washington, D.C.) in 1991 and made his perpetual profession on February 19, 1995. He was also an active member of the SCSS, the Catholic Association of Scientists and Engineers, and the Knights of Columbus.

David wanted to evangelize through the use of business models to be adapted on the community level that would set up small local enterprises in such areas as health, clean water, power generators, and hyperbaric oxygen chambers. These community-based operations would be run with Catholic principles and ethics and serve as evangelical tools. It was Catholic social teaching in action.
In 2003, he moved with his family to Cumming, Georgia, just North of Atlanta. He and his wife, Patrice, had eight children. He is survived by Patrice and their children: Kevin, 24; Mary, 23; John, 21; Caitlin, 20; Christine 19; Matthew, 17; Colin, 15; and Sean, 13; and a sister, Joan Nicholson, of Springfield, Virginia.