

# Thomas Murphy

**C**ATHOLIC Archbishop Thomas Murphy, who died yesterday, was one part Irish politician, one part theologian and three parts pastor. He was the right choice to succeed Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen in 1991, whose policies on gays and social justice created controversy within the diocese and triggered Vatican intervention.

Murphy was a humanitarian, a healer, a pragmatist. As the Seattle

Archdiocese's chief executive, he treated his predecessor with dignity and ended the controversy. He managed growth, dealt with the challenge of a priest shortage and championed Catholic schools.



**Thomas  
Murphy**

As a priest, he reached out to the sick, the hungry and disenfranchised, campaigned for humane values in public life, and gave moral leadership to Western Washington's 353,000 Catholics and others.

Stricken with leukemia, he never lost his delight in a joke well told, his ethic of hard work or his devotion to the mission of a priest. He turned his suffering into an inspiring lesson of grace, courage and spirituality.

In a homily last February, Archbishop Murphy said "human life is a gift of God." His life, and work, was a gift to this community.