



*in 1996, Mr. Chamberlin worked in human resources at Johns Hopkins Hospital until he established Praxis Mediation which specialized in conflict management and organizational development. “He had a gift and a talent for facilitating work,” said the Rev. Joseph L. Muth Jr., pastor of St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church in Northeast Baltimore. “He always looked at the positive side.”*

*He was an avid reader, and for decades he wrote daily entries in his journal. He was seldom without a small pocket notebook in which he wrote while carrying on conversations with a collection of artists, writers, reporters, politicians, coaches whom he met almost daily at Ryan’s Daughter or Grand Cru in Belvedere Square. He also wrote short stories, some of which were included in a collection titled “A Doctor Dies and Other Stories,” as well as poetry and haikus. He was motivated and influenced, he often said, by the poet-monk Thomas Merton, who had written, “Poetry is the flowering of ordinary possibilities.” At his death, Mr. Chamberlin had completed a memoir and “Bridges: Selected Poems of a Life.”*

*“Joe had a wry way of looking at things,” said Michael Whelan, a Washington poet and longtime friend, who assisted in the preparation of “Bridges.” “He wrote both prose and poetry and I encouraged him to write short poems, which he did. He liked the haiku.” “When you come to the last lines of your last page, one can only hope that what was written will be read, remembered and leave with the reader,” Mr. Chamberlin wrote on “Bridges” last page.*

*After being diagnosed with cancer during the summer of 2016, Mr. Chamberlin announced to his family and friends that his bucket list included walking across the Brooklyn Bridge, visiting Paris — especially Harry’s New York Bar — and traveling to Key West, Fla., where he visited novelist Ernest Hemingway’s house and haunts. “He was a reflective person who was still trying to figure things out even until the end,” Father Muth said.*

*A favorite quote of Mr. Chamberlin’s from author David Foster Wallace could be applied to his own life: “The really important freedom involves attention, awareness, and discipline, and effort, and being able truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them, over and over, in myriad petty little unsexy ways, every day.”*

*A memorial Mass will be offered for Mr. Chamberlin at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church, 5401 Loch Raven Blvd.*

*He is survived by two sons, Christopher M. Chamberlin of Catonsville and John K. Chamberlin of Baltimore; his brother, Thomas M. “Mick” Chamberlin of Hillsborough, N.C.; longtime partner Margaret Osburn of Roland Park; and a grandson. Two marriages ended in divorce.*

