

Conversation reveals love for pastor

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

"Did the other half of Elmira call today?" The question came from a smiling doctor to the nurses on duty Sunday in the cardiac-care unit of the Auburn Hospital.

"Not quite," one of the nurses replied, returning the doctor's smile, "but I think this guy knows everybody. We even had a call from Chicago about him."

The patient in question was Father Paul McCabe, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira, who suffered a heart attack in Auburn last week and who, thanks be to God, is making a strong recovery.

I was in on this dialogue because I was sitting close to the nursing station waiting to see Paul. When I arrived the nurses told me that I was welcome to visit, but asked me not to waken him because he had been tired and very much needed the rest.

The request to wait was no problem at all, but it turned out to be an especially privileged time. What a touching experience it was to hear a conversation centering on the great affection in which Paul is held by the people among whom he has served during his 35 years as a priest. My continuing prayer is that such an outpouring of support and care will only strengthen a recovery that is already so well begun.

The experience I had in the cardiac unit stayed with me as I returned home on Sunday. I thanked God for the good health I enjoy and was very much aware that I have



A LONG THE WAY

no ironclad guarantee that I will enjoy good health tomorrow. I prayed for some of my friends who are struggling with ill health and spent some time remembering those for whom I had promised to pray in recent days.

And I thought back to a hospital visit earlier in the week. On Friday I celebrated the Eucharist with our teachers on Superintendent's Day at Bishop Kearney High School. After the liturgy, one of the teachers asked me to stop at Rochester General Hospital to visit Jean D'Alessandro who taught in Catholic schools for many years and who is now quite ill.

When I got to her room I found Jean in great spirits, obviously enjoying the company of a few friends and members of her fami-

ly. They informed me that Jean had been making an incredible comeback from a very threatening situation.

Their joy and Jean's peace and tranquility amid serious illness raised some questions for me: What does it mean to be whole and to be strong? What are the gifts of spirit that allow a person like Jean to send home stronger than when they arrived those persons who come to comfort her in her illness? How can we encourage one another — quite apart from anyone's experience of illness — that an acceptance of our limitations, vulnerability and weakness can become a source of our strength.

Paul and Jean and the people who surrounded them with love this week raised those questions in me. I share them with you in the hope that they will be as encouraging to you as they have been for me.

Two closing comments:

My thanks to the community at St. Patrick/St. Columba in Caledonia-Mumford for the most enjoyable visit on Sunday morning. In the course of the morning I had the joy of anointing some members of the community in the Sacrament of the Sick and others in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Through them, the prayers of the parish anointed me with their hospitality and great kindness.

Next week I shall share a sampling of your responses to the questions I asked about communications in a recent column.

Peace to all.

In return for their labor, workers have a right to wages and other benefits sufficient to sustain life in dignity.

U.S. Catholic Bishops, Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy

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A new monthly calendar will appear in the Catholic Courier on the last Thursday of each month.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

The following prayer was dictated by Our Lord to Sister Josefa Menendez at Poitiers, France, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 3, 1921, with the instruction: "Josefa! Repeat these words each day."

JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

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Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

NOVEMBER, 1992

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Reverend Fathers:		2	3	4	5	6	7
Peter A. Deckman		William Donnelly	Richard C. O'Connell	Richard M. Murphy	Robert S. Bourcy	L. John Hedges	Edward J. Foy
Gennaro J. Ventura	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		William D. Tobin	George T. Smith, CSB	Thomas Miller, CSB	Ansgar Kristensen	James F. Smith, SJ	Raymond Fournier
John S. Hayes	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Msgr. Joseph G. Gefell	William J. Gaynor	James E. Tierney	Msgr. Joseph Sullivan	Alexander J. Stec	Richard G. Stanton
James F. Slattery	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Msgr. William M. Roche	Joseph T. Gaynor	Clarence W. Gardner	Donald J. Murphy	Robert F. McNamara	John A. Murphy
John J. Nacca	29	30	For subsequent months or extra copies write to: MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Drive, Rochester, NY 14620				
		C. Richard Nangle					

Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's November 26th issue.

A time to share



A time to grow

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