

Giving thanks for concern, prayers

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I cannot begin this week's column without thanking you for your gracious and prayerful concern about my back problem. I am grateful for your cards and comments, and for the suggestions so many have offered about how best to deal with my back.

Since my last column two weeks ago, I have tried as best I can to respect the need for healing and to recognize that my best contribution to the process at this point is to obey the good counsel of my doctor, to place as little strain on my back as possible.

For example, I decided not to attend our National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Washington last week because of the long hours of sitting that such sessions require.

And I have refrained from running because the doctor wanted me to. I am able to walk, and have enjoyed the transition from running to a daily walk much more than I ever thought I would.

As it stands, now I experience no pain at all. My one notable physical symptom is a mild weakness and numbness in my right leg. My doctor will be keeping an eye on that.



A LONG THE WAY

My best understanding is that there may be some physical therapy/exercise program in the offing. But that is not yet determined and I want to be careful not to anticipate the doctor's judgment in the matter. When and as things develop further I will let you know what's happening. In the meantime, I want you to know what a gift your concern has been for me.

The gift of your concern has whetted my appetite for our national feast of Thanksgiving, a day I have always enjoyed immensely. I suppose that that's because it means reunion with family and

other loved ones, a festive meal, and a privileged opportunity to be in touch with the flow of life in the people with whom I'll be sharing the day.

For our family, the feast will take different shape this year. My newlywed niece, Jane Early Neff, and her husband, Scott, have invited us to their home in Blasdell for Thanksgiving dinner. So, after the Eucharist at Sacred Heart, instead of driving four hours to the east for dinner at my sister's home, we'll drive one hour to the west for dinner at Jane and Scott's. I have no doubt that we will enjoy an elegant meal and even less doubt that Jane's sisters will be making outrageous comments about her culinary abilities.

Please accept my very best wishes and prayers for you and your loved ones during this special time of Thanksgiving. I hope that the day will be good for you, that you will be able to name and rejoice in many good gifts.

And, if there is sadness or pain in your life, I hope that this day of thanksgiving will allow you to locate that suffering in an awareness of God's fidelity and compassion for us all.

Thanks once again for your kindness. Happy Thanksgiving. Peace to all.

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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 daily."

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 forever they may glorify Thee.
Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953

Mass
 Rosary
 Fasting
 Day Offering
 Offering of Sufferings
 Eucharistic Adoration
 Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priests.

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David Parkes

Famous Pro-Life Singer from Ireland

will be appearing at:

Holy Trinity Church, Webster
 Sat., Nov. 27, 7:30 pm

Bishop Kearney H.S. Auditorium
 Fri., Nov. 26, 7 pm

St. Mary's Church, Waterloo
 Tues., Nov. 30, 7 pm

He will be giving Testimony of Miraculous Healing at Medjugorje

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