

A request for prayers; praise for eight women

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

This week: I ask for prayers for an Archbishop and tell you a little about eight great women.

1.) I open this column with the request that you pray daily for the recovery from surgery of Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago. Surgeons removed one of Joe's kidneys this week because of malignant tumors and, at this writing, are still concerned about the condition of his pancreas. (See page 5)

Joe's contribution to the church in the United States in the years since Vatican Council II has been a remarkable one. He served as auxiliary bishop of Charleston, S.C., and archbishop of Cincinnati, Ohio, before going to Chicago.

Through those years he has rendered singular service to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He has served as our executive secretary and, later, as our president. In addition, he has been chairman of several key NCCB committees and is a person who can always be counted upon to offer wise and honest advice in any situation.

He would enjoy the prayers of his brother bishops for his recovery under any circumstances. All the more will he have them as we gather in Chicago this week for the June meeting of our conference. As you pray for our brother, Joseph, please pray for all of the bishops that we may serve you well at our session in Chicago.

2.) Last evening at St. Bernard's Institute, the Women's Scholarship Committee hosted "A Celebration of Catholic Women" to honor eight exemplary Catholic women and to benefit the scholarship fund for women at SBI. I borrow from the program notes to tell you about this remarkable occasion and to honor the achievements — often quiet, always life-giving — of:

Karen Hibbard, RN: Karen is a family nurse-



A LONG THE WAY

practitioner devoted to the urban poor. She has organized volunteer health services in homeless shelters and on behalf of women with HIV; she educates physicians and nurses to reach out to those often cut off from traditional health care.

Kathleen Mahoney: At Corpus Christi parish, where she is on the staff, Kathleen designed innovative, successful programs for those entering the church through the RCIA; a talented teacher of all ages, Kathleen recently completed a doctorate at the University of Rochester.

Elizabeth McAnarney, MD: An outstanding physician, scholar and mentor, Elizabeth is the first woman to chair the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center; her tireless devotion to the best interests of children inspires all that she does.

Judith O'Brien: As founder and first chair of the Women's Scholarship Committee of St.

Bernard's Institute, Judith led the group for six years of active fundraising on behalf of women seeking to serve the local church; she also served on the boards of the Catholic Family Center and the Office of Social Ministry.

Joan Sobala, SSJ: For 10 years the director of the Downtown Community Forum at St. Mary's Church, Sister Joan has engaged hundreds of Rochesterians in discussion of society's most pressing issues; she is prominent, too, in national efforts to bring Catholic women into full participation in the church.

Mary Lou Stotz: As chair of Birthright and an active volunteer with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Memorial Art Gallery, Mary Lou serves her community with abundant energy and talent; she is also volunteer coordinator of liturgy at Transfiguration Parish.

Mary Regis Straughn, RSM: A pioneer in diocesan social ministry, Sister Regis has served the poor of Rochester for 52 years; she has been at the heart of Mount Carmel parish's outreach to the surrounding Hispanic community — serving the food bank, comforting the sick and lonely, and obtaining outside support.

Marion Tucker: For many years Marion has worked tirelessly to secure the basic necessities for refugees from many countries resettling in Rochester; in addition, she oversees regular food collections from St. Catherine's Parish, Mendon, for St. Martin's Kitchen and volunteers at Isaiah House.

You may know some of these women. If you do, you will be quick to realize that it would take volumes to record all that they have done. If you are not acquainted with them, I am sure you know women in your community whose loving service is as exemplary as that of the women honored at St. Bernard's last evening.

Peace to all.

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