

## Rescued pilot credits God's love, Marines' heroics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While everyone was hailing him as a hero, Capt. Scott F. O'Grady, the downed Air Force pilot who was rescued June 8 from northern Bosnia, credited his faith, his training and heroic Marines for bringing him home.

"The first thing I want to do is thank God. If it wasn't for God's love for me and my love for God I wouldn't be here," he said at a press conference held at an air base in Aviano, Italy, two days after his dramatic rescue.

"He's the one who delivered me. I know it in my heart," added the 29-year-old O'Grady.

"When I was out there, I heard all your prayers, heard them loud and clear," he told a cheering crowd June 11 at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, just outside Washington.

He was greeted there by his stepfather, William O'Grady of Alexandria, Va., and his mother, Mary Lou Scardapane, who lives in Seattle, where she is a member of St. Benedict's Catholic Church. Also on hand were his brother and sister, Paul and Stacy, his grandmother and grandfather and several hundred onlookers.

For the six days O'Grady was in the Bosnian forest after his F-16 was shot down June 2, he survived on ants, grass



Reuters/RNS

Shown here at the U.S. Aviano air base June 9, Captain Scott F. O'Grady celebrates his rescue from Bosnian Serb territory after he was shot down last week. O'Grady credited his faith, his training and heroic Marines for bring-

and rainwater. He said he avoided capture by Serbian soldiers patrolling within a few yards of his hiding place by lying face down in the bushes, his camouflage helping him to hide.

While a hero's welcome has greeted

O'Grady everywhere he has gone since his rescue, the 29-year-old pilot has downplayed any hardship he endured and said the real heroes are the Marines who rescued him. He also said the only way he could accept any accolades for

himself would be if people extend warm wishes to everyone else in the military.

The survival skills that O'Grady used throughout his six days in the Bosnian forest were honed in training in the forests of northeastern Washington, according to The Spokesman-Review, the daily newspaper of Spokane, Wash. In 1991, O'Grady was enrolled in what is described as a grueling 17-day program at Fairchild Air Force Base.

O'Grady was commissioned in the Air Force in 1989, after graduating with honors from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida and serving in the school's Air Force ROTC program. Before his assignment to the Balkans, O'Grady had flown F-16s in Germany and Italy.

Born in Brooklyn, in 1965, O'Grady grew up in Spokane, where he attended Cataldo Catholic Grade School. He was enrolled at Gonzaga Prep briefly before transferring to public high school, Lewis and Clark High School, where he played wide receiver on the football team.

O'Grady is "very steady, levelheaded and intelligent," Jim McMullen told the newspaper. His son graduated with O'Grady from high school. "We're not talking about just anybody. Scott is a remarkable young man."

### Prelate's career filled with many highlights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Here are some of the highlights in the life and career of Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago.

- 1928: Born in Columbia, S.C.
- 1952: Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.
- 1966: Ordained a bishop as an auxiliary of Atlanta.
- 1968-72: General secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference.
- 1971-83: Member of the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law.
- 1972-82: Archbishop of Cincinnati.
- 1974: Attended his first world Synod of Bishops, elected to synod's permanent council.
- 1974-77: President of the NCCB-USCC.
- 1982-present: Archbishop of Chicago.
- 1982-83: Chairman of the drafting committee that wrote the "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."
- 1983: Named a cardinal by Pope John Paul II.
- 1983: Delivered the first of a series of talks on the "consistent ethic of life" linking the church's stand on abortion to its defense of human life on all fronts.
- 1986-89: Chairman of NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities.
- 1991-present: Chairman of Committee on the Mission and Structure of the NCCB.

## Cardinal resting after cancer surgery

By Jay Copp  
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO — Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago was resting well after cancer surgery June 12, doctors at Loyola University Medical Center said.

Dr. Gerard V. Aranha, Loyola's chief of surgical oncology, told reporters that during seven hours of surgery doctors:

- Removed the cardinal's right kidney, which was cancerous.
- Removed a small growth on the liver and found it was benign.
- Removed a growth the size of a golf ball at the head of the pancreas.

He said it would take up to 48 hours to determine whether the pancreatic mass was malignant.

Dr. Warren Furey, the cardinal's personal physician, said, "At every juncture what we had was good news. Everything that happened gave us reason to be hopeful."

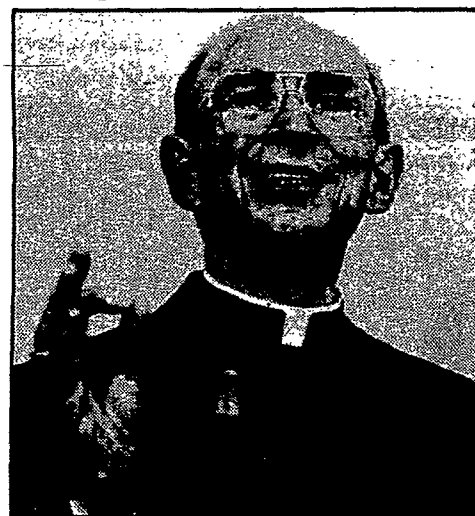
Aranha said the cardinal, who is 67, took the operation well and did not need any blood transfusions.

He said there was no relation between the cancer on the kidney and the growth on the pancreas.

For the growth on the pancreas, he said, surgeons performed what is called a Whipple procedure: They removed 40 percent of the pancreas, 40 percent of the stomach, 25 percent of the small intestine, the gall bladder and part of the bile duct.

He said the cardinal would be hospitalized for about a week, and it would take about three weeks to get back to normal life.

He said the remaining portion of the pancreas is enough to carry on the gland's normal functions and the cardi-



Reuters/RNS

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin was said to be resting comfortably after undergoing surgery for pancreatic cancer earlier this week.

nal will not be a diabetic.

The pancreas has two main functions, controlling blood sugar levels and providing digestive juices to the small intestine.

Dr. Richard Fisher, director of the Loyola Cancer Center, said that if the mass at the head of the pancreas turns out to be malignant, there is a 90 percent chance it will come back. In that case Cardinal Bernardin may undergo chemotherapy or radiation treatment, he said.

Aranha said early detection and surgery has probably improved the cardinal's odds of surviving for five years or more to about 20-25 percent.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest, with an overall five-year survival

rate of 3 percent.

Before entering surgery at 7:40 a.m., Cardinal Bernardin celebrated Mass in his hospital room with one or two priest-friends.

Auxiliary Bishop Raymond E. Goedert, archdiocesan vicar general, said that shortly after the operation Cardinal Bernardin met with his sister, Elaine Addison of Columbia, S.C., and two priests. He said Addison and the priests came away from the visit very encouraged.

Chicagoans who attended a midday Mass for the cardinal at Holy Name Cathedral said they felt touched and strengthened by his apparent serenity and faith when he learned he had cancer.

He told reporters before entering the hospital that he was "trying to practice what I preach" by putting himself in God's hands.

"He's a terrific example," said Dan Costello, a seminarian who attended the Mass. "I'd be a basket case. He's free of anxiety. He's so cool-tempered."

"It's typical behavior for him," Costello added. "He practices what he preaches."

"I identify with him," said Linda Lawyer, who successfully battled cancer two years ago. "It's a supreme opportunity for him for getting closer to God. He's already close to God."

"He's a great symbol of Chicago," said Pam Hayes, a Chicagoan who travels a lot in her work.

"He's such a stable force," she added.

Contributing to this story was Jerry Filteau in Washington.

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