

Recovery continues amid loving support

Between the writing of Grace's arrival and her appearance last week, there came another wonderful pleasure into my life. That was a visit from Jane Early Neff, the second daughter of my sister and brother-in-law, and Jane's two daughters, Julie Catherine, who is 4½, and Megan Grace, who has been lighting up the earth for 28 months.

The Neffs live just west of Batavia, but I had not seen them for some time. Their visit was a great joy. To watch Julie grow is to be drawn back to her mother growing up at the same age — so close is the physical resemblance between them, so similar are their dispositions at like ages.

I did not know Scott Neff, Jane's husband, when he was a child, but when I see Megan I am always taken by the many ways in which she shows the likeness of her dad — and all of that before there is interaction between the two! Same parents, same family, so much in common.

Yet unmistakably each is a distinct, separate young person already much grown and moving daily towards fuller maturity. I find it to be a moving experience whenever I have even a brief chance to observe it, and inevitably find in the experience much food for thought.

Grace was, as I knew she would be, a very good sport about the column I did last week. We did have some great times

along the way



By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

together — walking and talking and just hanging out over a restful and peaceful weekend.

As I indicated to you a week or two ago, I am convinced that loving friends like you and Grace, Jane, Julie and Megan all contribute profoundly to the healing process in anyone's life. I am convinced that your continuing prayer builds me up each day.

I am happy to report to you today that the last set of readings I received about the levels of inflammation in my system showed significant improvement. I was delighted at that news, of course, because it indicated that the rather powerful medicine I am taking is starting to produce the hoped-for results.

Those levels are still much higher than is desirable, however. For that reason, my doctor judges it important to stay at the current dosage until the levels of inflammation come down to a more acceptable

level.

In the meantime, I have been moving back to some consistent daily activity. I am delighted to do so both because I enjoy 90 percent of that activity very much and because I know that such activity also serves the strengthening, healing process I need to go through.

I think I am better now than I was just a while ago at accepting the fact that I will tire more quickly than usual, and that the tiring may happen at the most unexpected times. It's not a phenomenon one can predict with certainty nor time with any accuracy.

Please continue your kind prayer that the progress realized this week will continue to develop in good directions and that sooner than later the levels of inflammation I have been experiencing will be markedly reduced.

I promise to keep you appropriately updated on these health issues, but hope next week to move "Along The Way" back into commentary about what's happening in our local church, what challenges and opportunities lie before us, and how we can support one another in our efforts to be faithful disciples of the Lord.

Thank you once again, dear friends, for your kind messages and most generous prayers.

Peace to all.

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER

"To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures; to be a member of each family, yet belonging to none; to share all sufferings; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds; to go from men to God and offer Him their prayers; to return from God to men to bring pardon and hope; to have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for chastity; to teach and to pardon, console and bless always. My God, what a life! And it is yours, O Priest of Jesus Christ!"

- Lacordaire

Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

October, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Revs.	Vincent McDonough, SJ	Bishop Matthew Clark
3 Pope John Paul II	4 Sabbatical Priests	5 Francis E. Blighton	6 Richard T. Farrell	7 William G. Endres	8 Thomas P. Mull	9 Robert W. Hammond
10 Julian Phelan, OFM CAP	11 David L. Bonin	12 Joseph F. Cloonan	13 James E. Hewes	14 John Poluikis, CSB	15 Raymond H. Booth	16 Peter Enyan-Boadu
17 Robert J. Kanke	18 J.G. Poupore, CSB	19 Robert C. Bradler	20 Thomas H. Wheeland	21 Charles T. Manning	22 James C. Burke	23 John A. Lynch
24 Lee P. Chase	25 William F. Laird	26 Alfred Weinz, OCSO	27 John J. Nacca	28 James E. Boyle	29 Valentine A. Jankowiak	30 Vocations
31 Seminarians	Look for the November MPRP Calendar in the October 28th Courier.					

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