

Prayers, ideas welcome during break

In keeping with the pattern of many years, this end-of-June "Along the Way" will be my last until the Aug. 3 edition of the *Catholic Courier*. While I truly enjoy this way of communicating with you, I think you will understand when I say that I will welcome a break in the action.

This week I want to give you an update on my health and ask you to think about "Along the Way" with me.

The update:

You have always been kind and supportive of me. That has never been more true than during the last 10 months when I have been dealing with an inflammation of my vascular system. Your interest, prayers and support, I have no doubt, have been extremely important in the healing process.

I am happy to report to you that with the help of wonderful physicians I have come a long way. The level of inflammation in my system is now down to normal levels.

If that is the bright side of the news, the more sobering side is that I am still on fairly high levels of some powerful medication. I would be in a lot of trouble without the medication but, as I am sure you know, it can have some tough side effects if taken at high dosage over an extended period. The

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

task ahead is to gradually reduce the amount of this medicine and still keep the inflammation at an acceptable level.

Through all of this I have regained my strength and possess sufficient energy to carry out and enjoy quite an active schedule. It is pleasant to report that to you 10 months into a process, which my doctor told me from Day One, would take 18 months to two years.

May I ask for your prayers for continued healing? Thank you.

Along the Way:

I would like to make some changes in "Along the Way" starting sometime after we resume the column in August.

In response to your requests, I would like to present on a regular basis a more systematic, in-depth treatment of theological, pastoral and spiritual issues of common interest. Among my

hopes in doing so would be to keep you well-informed about our faith and the life of our local church, and to provide some common language for the many important discussions in which we are engaged.

The time and attention required to prepare such articles may affect the frequency with which "Along the Way" appears. But I would anticipate that there would be no serious drop off in that regard. The fact is that I do very much enjoy being in touch with you in this way.

You can be of great help in beginning what I hope will become a continuing dialogue between us in the *Catholic Courier*. I ask you to let me know what themes you would like me to write about in these pages. Could it be end of life issues? Or Catholic schools? Or liturgy or the pastoral use of technology? Or stewardship? Or vocations? Or pastoral planning? Or you name it. Your input will be the more helpful if you raise specific questions or concerns that focus your interest in the theme.

Thank you very much for considering my request. I would very much welcome your ideas, which you can send to me at 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624.

Peace to all.



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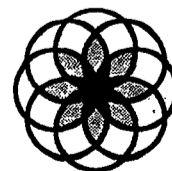
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