

Surgery brings physical, spiritual clarity

I should begin with a brief update on the cataract work that I had done on March 18. You learned about it in last week's *Catholic Courier* in a small notice on this page informing you there would be no *Along the Way* in that issue.

My ophthalmologist removed a cataract from my left eye and in the same procedure implanted a new lens. I was at the surgical center for about an hour and a half; the actual procedure took a very short time. I did not time it but it could not have been more than 15 minutes.

All has gone very well in the week since the work was done. When I see my doctor tomorrow, I trust that he will be pleased. I can tell you that I am delighted with the results, thus far.

One of the significant differences I have noticed is that colors are richer and more vibrant for me. I had heard from others who had had the procedure that such was the case with them. But I have to tell you that I did not think that that new richness would be part of my experience. The fact is, I thought that my color perception was quite good.

I can't tell you what a pleasant surprise it has been to enjoy the restora-

along the way

By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



tion of that perception. I have relished the renewal. I also have been grateful for the lesson it taught, especially since it all happened during Lent.

You know what I mean, I am sure. The fact is that my perception of color was fading over time. But it was happening so slowly, so gradually, that I did not even know that it was occurring or what I was missing as a result.

All of that led me to an awareness I might not otherwise have had of how my own spiritual sense, my perception of God's presence and leading in my life can fade so gradually, so slowly that I am not even aware of it.

So in my prayer I have asked the Lord to remove from my mind and heart the veils that obscure the things I should know and the good I should do.

It is a prayer I carry into and will continue during the most holy of weeks. It is a prayer I make not only for myself but also for you. I think it is not presumptuous to say that we all yearn to see with greater clarity, if not with the eyes of the body, then with the eyes of the heart and mind.

I hope that you will join our entire community in prayer during the Sacred Triduum. And I hope that, if at all possible, you will participate in the sacred rites at your parish church. Your presence will do much to support and strengthen the faith of others. And, I have no doubt that you will find much encouragement in the assembly.

We have much to celebrate, much for which we should give thanks. We also need to pray continually for the binding of wounds and ongoing healing as we continue to cope with the aftermath of Sept. 11 and the painful effects of the sexual-abuse issues with which the church has been dealing.

Please accept my very best wishes for the Easter feast. May we all know the strength and healing that only God can give.

Peace to all.

HUNGRY for a good walk for a good cause?

Hey, it's spring. Great time to get out and get in shape. How about challenging yourself—and your friends—to a nice two-hour (10K) walk on Saturday morning, **April 27**, to help our neighbors in need?



The theme of this year's hike—Dimitri House's 15th annual—is "Hand in Hand." That's what our hikes, our only fundraising event, have always been about—working together to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless.

Join in the fun and the fundraising.

Call us to get more information or an application. There's no entry fee, no minimum amount to collect. And all walkers get a FREE "Hand in Hand" T-shirt. (Even if you don't want to do the walk, you can still make a donation to this worthy cause.)



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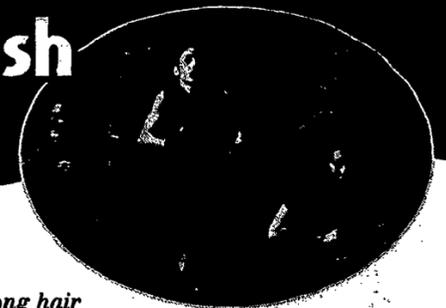
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