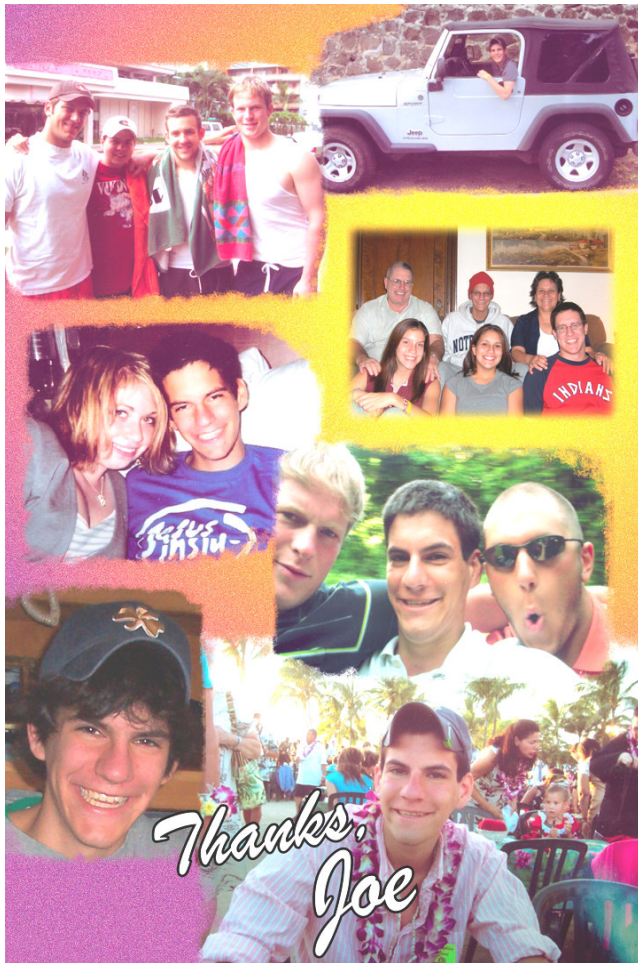


Sunday, October 15, 2006

I'm sitting here not sure what to say. I know a great way to start this, but I don't know any other way of trying to get what seems like a million different ideas out. I guess I can start by saying that if you asked me what I was going to be doing a few months ago I would probably excitedly tell you about the school program I was involved in and what we were doing. Never would you or I guess that I would be in this situation, but alas we are and I say we because through all of this I have learned that I am not alone. I have gone through a lot in the past few months and I might be able to write a book just on that but that's not what I want to tell you about. I have learned more in the past few months, and I'm not talking about medical jargon, I'm talking about life and now I want to share a little bit of what I've learned. There were many hardships that I had to face as I went through this ordeal but the most wonderful thing about all these experiences is that I never had to do it alone. While no one could take my pain away they were there to make sure I wasn't alone. Instead they were there when I needed someone to talk to, listen to sometimes too, but there is so much more to. People let me play jokes on them, which made me laugh, and there is no better medicine than laughter. Others let me cry on their shoulder and were strong but sometimes I had to be strong and lend people a shoulder to cry on.



So here is the big secret and it's not really a secret but you never have to do anything alone. I always knew that my family and friends were here for me but I never tested the "no matter what" statement out and I guess leukemia falls under that. The funny thing is that I never knew how much family and friends I have and not to mention all their family and friends they have, because right now I feel like I have the whole world behind me. It's amazing to think that all these people care about me and I'm in your debt forever. I now know that I am not alone and I have the world to help me. My parents, John Paul, Katie and especially Mary Rose (my BMT donor) have helped me so much especially by being a normal family. All of your cards, prayers, visits, Caring Bridge guestbook messages, gifts, emails, voicemails, text messages and this benefit for me and my family have all been overwhelming, making me very grateful to God and feeling that you are with me every step of my journey.

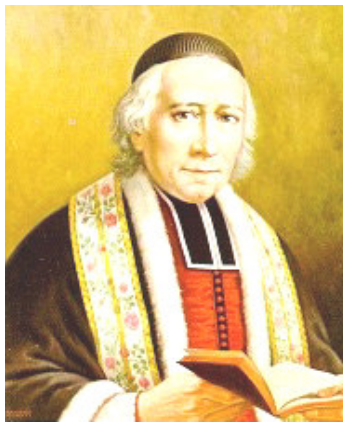
One of the most important things I do want to say is thank you. I might not know who you are

and you may not know me personally but that doesn't mean that I can't say thank you. I know that you are taking time just to think of me now so I want you to know that I'm thinking of you and I hope that you're having a great day and that your futures be full of many more. Though I wish I could be with you at St. Margaret Mary's today, the doctors have advised me that due to my compromised immune system, I stay out of crowds.



I do have a special prayer request:

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade was born in France in 1761 and became a diocesan priest. He founded the Society of Mary (Marianists) in 1817. Members of the Society of Mary serve the church in education, parishes and mission work as priests, brothers, sisters and lay ministers. Blessed Chaminade died in 1850 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2000. I was fortunate enough to be in Rome for the beatification liturgy. I ask everyone to join me in praying to Blessed Chaminade ('Billy Joe') for a special favor to make me well. Thanks!



### **Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade**

*O Lord, You are constantly at work in your Church and, through individuals and communities, You manifest Your Spirit for the good of your people. In a special way You bestowed your spirit on your Servant, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade so that he might live fully according to the Gospel and with love devote himself to your saving work. You have inspired communities of men and women to follow his example by consecrating themselves to You to serve the Church under the leadership of Mary. We now pray to You to give us visible signs of your grace and holiness in his life by granting us the special favors we ask for **Joseph Veasey** through his intercession. May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.*

[www.caringbridge.org/visit/joeveasey](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/joeveasey)

Love,

*Joseph P. Veasey*