

## Pastor's Column

### “Thank You” and Health Update

In the last two months, December and January, we have seen a whirlwind of activity here in the Parish as we moved through the Advent and Christmas seasons, and then journeyed through Christian Stewardship.

As I mentioned last Sunday, we are an “intentional” Parish. Parishioners are here because you want to be and you make parish life a priority in your lives.

The last two months were so prayerful, reverent, and joy-filled! Many of you involved and helping in doing the things that need to be done to create an atmosphere, an environment, that is prayerful, reverent, and joy-filled.

And we ended these two months with “Super Sunday” on January 29, with the “Groundbreaking Ceremony” for our Church and Offices.

I want to thank each and every one of you for what you have done, and continue to do, to make St. Thomas More the special Parish that it is.

I will not mention names, as is my custom. But you know who you are and what you have done. All is done in the name of Jesus for the glory and honor of our God.

Thank you! Let us keep up this great Parish Spirit, as we begin this “Year of the Build.”

Now a bit of news in regard to my health... As many of you know, my last surgery in March 2011 was not as successful as I had hoped. I continue to have much back and leg pain after standing for more than a few minutes.

My surgeon suggested another surgery that would entail placing “hardware” in my spine. This would mean about a week in the hospital with a three month recuperation period.

For me, at this time, this would be an option that I would hold on to as a last resort.

I began to search for some other options, and I found the Laser Spine Institute ([www.laserspineinstitute.com](http://www.laserspineinstitute.com)). After discussion with them and consultation with their local doctor, I qualified as a candidate for their procedure.

It is an outpatient procedure, using a local rather than general anesthesia, requiring no hospital time, and only a couple of weeks of recuperation. Also this would not involve the placement of any “hardware” in my spine.



Groundbreaking Ceremony on January 29



This procedure is done in only four places in the United States, the closest to San Diego being Scottsdale, Arizona.

On February 6, I will be flying to Phoenix. February 6 and 7 will be days of physical exams and evaluations. February 8 will be the day of the procedure. February 9 will be a day of rest. On February 10, I will return to Oceanside and continue my recuperation at the rectory. I hope to return to “active duty” on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Fr. Rich Lewandowski will fly out from Massachusetts on Sunday, February 5, and will accompany me to Scottsdale and return with me to Oceanside for part of my recuperation. He will return home on February 13.

I ask for your continued prayers that this procedure will relieve some, if not all of my pain. I do not have time to be “held back.” We have a Church to build!

Fr. Mike