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Father Mazouch: Grateful for the

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In August of 2013, Father Charles Mazouch was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer of the esophagus; cancer that had also spread to the liver, lymph nodes, into the bloodstream. He was given five months to live.

Father Mazouch spent the fall of 2013 in and out of hospitals for different procedures and surgeries, mainly from the cause of a hole in the esophagus. During this time, tube feeding was mandatory, hopefully allowing time to heal the esophagus in hopes of him being able to eat and drink again. But during this time, complications occurred and Father Mazouch became weaker and weaker. After several stents were put in and taken out of the esophagus, and not being able to eat or drink for two months, the doctors became uncertain of what to do but a decision was made to remove the last stent and feeding tube and to the surprise of all medical staff after viewing a CT scan, the hole in his esophagus was healed! When Dr. Szait came to him the next morning he asked Father Mazouch if he believed in miracles and he said, “that is kind of my profession”. All of this became the turning point in his recovery.

Father Mazouch continues under the care of Dr. Nanney and continues to receive chemotherapy at the Heartland Cancer Center in Great Bend. After several CT scans throughout the last eight months, his cancer shows no spreading and also the cancer appears to no longer be in the liver.

Now, more than a year later, he attributes his ongoing healing in the Lord to those who have prayed for him and those who have prayed particularly for the intercession of Father Emil Kapaun.

Father Kapaun, whose cause for canonization is in Rome, was pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Timken where the Mazouch family worshipped. Charles was just a one year old when Father Kapaun began his assignment in the parish and 18 months old when Father Kapaun left. His pastorate was cut short when Bishop Mark K. Carroll asked him to return to military service as a chaplain in the Korean War.

Father Kapaun, who served in World War II from 1944 to 1946, began his second tour of duty on October 8, 1948. He was captured deep in North Korea on November 1, 1950. His heroic actions in combat and as a prisoner of war are recorded in great detail in the documentation for his cause for sainthood.

Father Mazouch believes Father Kapaun’s good works continue.

Power of Prayer

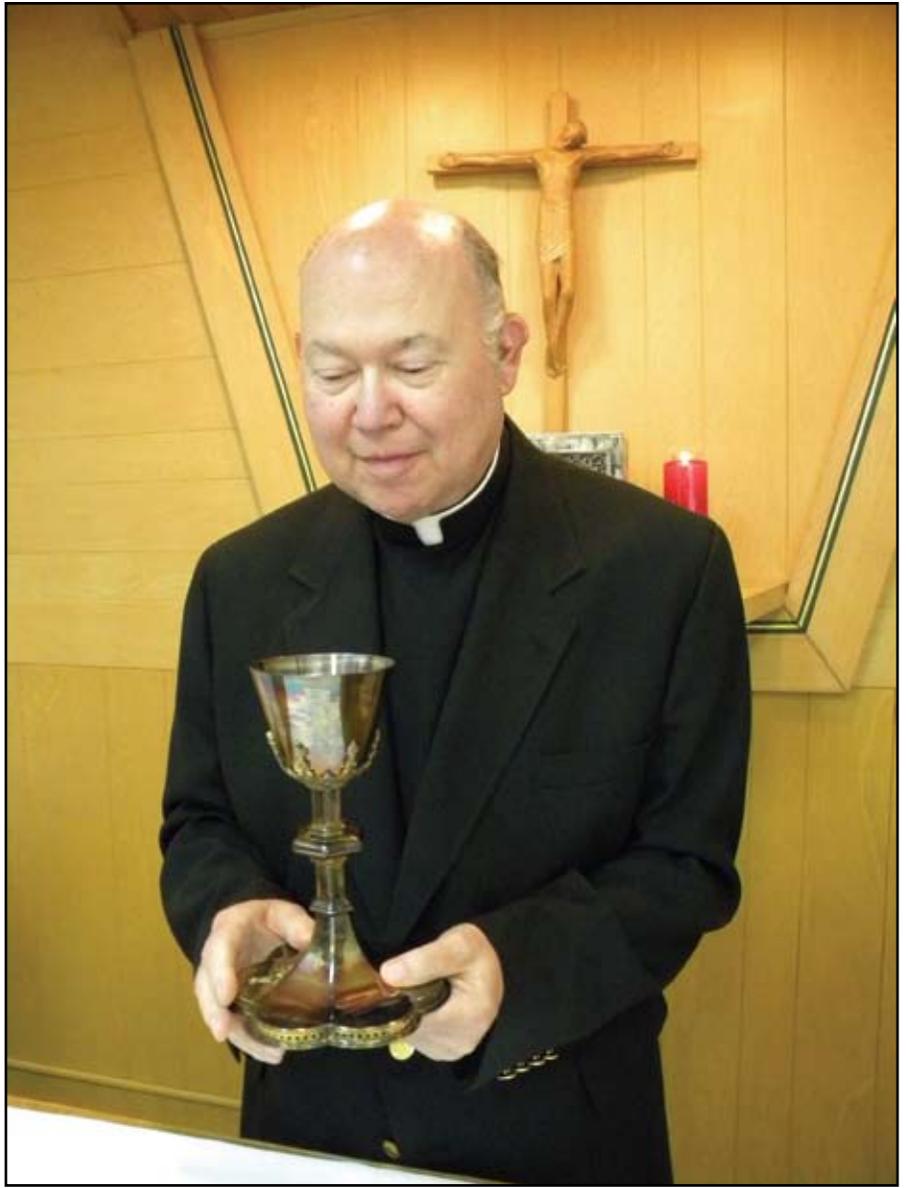


Photo by David Myers

Father Charles Mazouch holds the chalice that once belonged to Father Emil Kapaun. In August of 2013, Father Mazouch was given five months to live.

The following is a message from Father Charles Mazouch:

“At this time I want to express my sincere appreciation to all in the diocese and outside of the diocese who have prayed for me, had prayer services, sent cards, and visited me during my stays in and out of the hospitals. I have kept all of my cards and correspondence and recently went through them, and it was a very emotional time that so many people thought of me and took time to write to me. I am totally

overwhelmed by the prayers for me! I believe I have witnessed a bit of a miracle right before my very own eyes; your prayers for me are being answered. Please continue to pray.”

Father Mazouch has returned to ministry. He began his pastoral assignment as parochial administrator for St. Joseph, Ashland and Holy Spirit, Coldwater on Aug. 4, 2014. He continues to reside in Barton County in the rectory at Olmitz so that he can continue treatment in Great Bend.