

SOMEONE'S PRAYING ME THROUGH

Sometime last year, we were saddened to learn that my wife's nephew was back in the hospital with exacerbation of leukemia. It broke our hearts because we all thought that if one passed a five year remission, the disease was completely gone and this was already his ninth year. We were wrong. He had to undergo a second round of chemotherapy and another bone marrow transplant.

There was nothing we could do but to pray. We included him in all our prayers, offered nine-day-devotions for him, and prayed the rosary. Since Lent was around the corner, I told God that I was going to fast for forty days as a sacrifice. This meant no breakfast nor lunch.

I did my share of almsgiving and more prayers. In the middle of the Lenten season, I had a bout with flu but I continued to fast. After two weeks, I came out of the doctor's office with a lot of prescriptions for my medication that needed to be taken with food. I had no choice but to stop fasting. A few days later, we learned that our nephew passed away. I was so heartbroken. I kept asking God why it had to happen. Why did He not answer my prayers? Was it because I did not finish my fasting?

A relative asked me to do the eulogy on the last day of the wake. I accepted but as I reflected on what I had to say, it became very difficult for me. I couldn't even get an answer to my questions and now I was going to tell everybody that it's okay, death is inevitable, don't be sad, and move on with your life. I decided to go to a local church for an hour of adoration to clear my mind. As I fixed my eyes on Jesus, I heard a voice deep within saying, "I had answered your prayers but you did not want to accept it because my answer was not what you wanted. I had other plans for your nephew and it was for the best."

So God did answer my prayers! What God was trying to tell me all along became clear to me. I felt peace and my sorrow lightened, as I accepted His answer and His plan for my nephew and with this; I was able to convey a eulogy full of hope.