

FEBRUARY 11, 2015 - A HEALTH UPDATE

After a 3-week delay because of my little adventure with pleurisy, I finished my last round of chemotherapy at the end of January. I had a CT-Scan last week and, with lots of trepidation, saw my oncologist on Monday (9th). The news was good, very good in fact: The scan came out clean. But, as you know, when cancer returns a second time, as mine did, they no longer talk of a "cure" but talk rather of maintenance and containment.

And this is what my oncologist proposed in terms of maintenance: He will treat me with a combination of one chemo drug (taken orally) along with a new (non-cancer) drug (given by injection) that is designed to teach the immune system how to fight the cancer. That latter drug is the beginning of the next generation of how they will treat cancer, i.e., not by using chemo to kill all the most active cells in your body (which, of course, include the cancer cells) but by boosting the immune system in a very designed way so that it can knock out the cancer. The treatments will start next week. The side-effects should be quite minimal, compared to the chemo I've been getting, and the doctor feels that I should have basically normal energy for work and exercise.

So the news is good! I'm deeply grateful ... but you can keep the prayers coming.

Peace

Ronald Rolheiser OMI