

My name is Amedia de Souza, and I am a cancer survivor. In September 2002, I was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. Having gone through the pain of surgery and radiation treatment, I was told that the cancer was arrested and that my prognosis was good. I looked forward to my life returning to normal. But this was not to be.

A year later in September 2003, it was discovered that the cancer had come back with a vengeance. I spent five weeks in the hospital and rehabilitation center and then began my regimen of chemotherapy in November 2003. While on my second cycle of chemotherapy, I learnt about Fr. Mathew Naickomparambil, V.C. visit to the United States and of the healing service on Dec. 7, 2003 at Montgomery College hall in Germantown, Maryland. Because of the illness, my mobility had sharply decreased and travel was difficult. But I decided I had to make the effort and surrendered myself to the Holy Spirit.

During the healing service, someone or other would step forward in response to Father's call to testify that he or she had been healed. At one time there was an anxious moment when Father proclaimed that someone was getting healed and should testify to the same. Nobody did. And ever since I have often wondered whether it was me.

After the service ended, I happened to meet a fellow parishioner, Dr. Joseph Thomas, who upon hearing my story, requested Fr. Mathew to pray over me. Fr. Mathew immediately obliged, placed his hands on my head, and prayed to our gracious Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to give me strength to bear my pain. I returned home renewed with faith and vigor.

Five days later, a CT scan showed that the tumor had shrunk. I was elated--this was the first encouraging news I had received in months! During the fourth cycle of chemotherapy, a CT scan taken on January 23, 2004, revealed that the tumor had completely disappeared from my system. The next chemo cycle was due to begin on January 29, 2004. My oncologist, bless him, ruled against it. Now here I am, eighteen months and six CT scans later--the last one taken just a week ago--telling you what the CT scan reports have been saying all along:

“NO EVIDENCE OF METASTATIC DISEASE OR RECURRENCE”

In the spring of 2004, my oncologist referred me to an orthopedic surgeon who successfully operated on my spine. Since then I have discarded the use of the wheel chair and the quad cane as my mobility has vastly improved.

I give praise and thanks to God--the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, for His Mercy and Love, also to Our Lady of Lourdes and Vailankanni, St. Jude, St. Peregrine, St. Padre Pio and Blessed Mother Teresa. I also thank Fr. Mathew for being God's instrument in healing me. I will continue to pray for the conversion of sinners, as he requested.