

## **The Communicator, February 24, 2024, Jim Papp Update**

As in yesterday's Communicator, Father Doug and I visited Jim yesterday. It was not as we expected it would be and we changed plans mid-drive. Rosa, Jim's long-time housekeeper and beloved friend, made the decision yesterday morning to take him by ambulance to a private clinic in Temixco.

We arrived at the clinic when he had been there about an hour. We were accompanied by another of Jim's oldest friends in Cuernavaca, Steve Justessen and his partner. Steve and I were allowed into the room where Jim was on a breathing machine. He could not talk and was in obvious discomfort. Rosa was with him urging Jim on with constant encouragement and affection. Jim recognized us and was clearly very happy we were there. Only two of us were allowed to be in the room at a time. Steve left and Father Doug, Rosa and I were then with him.

Father Doug was wonderful. So thoughtfully he brought three stoles from the Easter vestments Jim had made for Saint Michael's many years ago. Father Doug wore one, wrapped one around Jim, and put one on me. He/we prayed with a very emotional Jim (there were tears flowing almost all the time we were with him — only some of them were Jim's). Father Doug explained that he would give Jim the Eucharist through me as Jim's vessel, eyes very alert and bright, Jim nodded, an exhausted Rosa also took the Eucharist. Father Doug anointed Jim with Holy oil. We each told him how beloved he is by his friends from the Community, the church in Alpuyeca and Saint Michael's, the library. I mentioned by name everyone who has written to me on Jim's behalf. Jim listened carefully to everything we said and acknowledged that he was hearing by nodding his head. Father Doug left him wrapped in the stole. Jim's hands held it tightly. It was a powerful experience for us and I hope a comforting one for Jim. As we left Father Doug blessed Rosa and prayed briefly with her in Spanish.

Steve and his friend Gabriel replaced us in the room. The doctor came while they were there and explained that Jim has pneumonia, a fever, an infection. These are the primary issues they are treating. He can not receive treatment for the cancer unless he can be cured of the pneumonia. He is in an extremely grave condition. There is not much hope.

Jim's husband Roberto arrived from Chilpancingo shortly after we left. His report last night was that Jim is intubated, not conscious, still with a high fever. He asked that I thank all of you for your prayers and for your financial help. I hope to be there again today.