

Hello, I'm Mark. Matt's 2nd oldest brother. I was thinking of what Matt would want for me to say to all of you today, and I could hear him say, "Mark, whatever you do, please keep it short and simple, because everyone knows how you have a tendency to...well, you know..."

Matt spoke to my heart, and this is what I heard:

I prayed for a loving, supportive family, and I was born into the Alterio/Livolsi/Cerreta/Donaldson family, which I cherish.

I prayed for security, hope and faith, and God gave me a Dad who not only provided for me and prayed for me, but also served as an example of how to be a good father, a man of integrity and respect.

I prayed for unconditional love, and God gave me the most wonderful Mom, who admired me and was always by my side, from the moment she brought me into this world, until the day my heavenly Father brought me home.

I prayed for a brother I could look up to, who could always make me smile, and He gave me Mike. (You know, he's very busy.)

I prayed for a sister who could nurture and care for me like a Mother, and He gave me Michelle.

I prayed for a soul-mate for my brother, Mark, and He blessed our family with Reby. (If you did not notice by looking at Mark, Reby is a great cook, too!)

I prayed for talented, caring, and loving nieces and nephews, and I was given Donelle and her husband Jeff, Amanda and her husband Dan, and Anthony.

I prayed for in-laws who would be caring and supportive to Mara, Noah, and me, and Judy, Larry, Rachel, Aaron, and all of the Jobs' family were given to me.

For Noah, I prayed for lifelong playmates and friends like I had, and He gave us Haden, Logan, Alivia, Jeff's and Donelle's soon arriving baby, and many more who will be placed in his life.

I prayed for a brother my own age, to share life's experiences, and God gave me Nate. There are no words to express my gratitude for Nate.

I prayed for a friend who could make me laugh, even in the most difficult of times, and God sent me Strawn.

I prayed for a happy childhood, and God gave me all of my neighborhood families, friends, and schoolmates.

I prayed for friends to golf with, laugh with, and share comradery, and got so much more when I was given my Myrtle Beach Golf Outing brothers.

I prayed for a talent that would provide me with an extended loving family, and God gave me music. That gift provided me with lifelong friends including my band members with Clockwork Orange, a long-term partnership with Paul, all of my playing partners and family at SingSing, Juniors, Crocodile Rocks, and dueling piano bars throughout the country, along with entertainment professionals, and many more friends and acquaintances too numerous to mention here, but you know who you are.

I prayed for friends for Mara to comfort her and help her carry-on, and He sent Becka, Maureen, Emily, Jenny, Tracey, Monica, and all the many not mentioned.

I prayed that I would be given time to accomplish God's plan for my life. He gave to me Dr. Mark Woodburn, who not only provided his medical expertise, but became one of my closest and treasured friends throughout my difficult journey, and is still providing support to Mara and Noah. I thank Dr. Appleman, Dr. Bartlett, the PA's, nurses, and aides at UPMC, hospice nurses, and everyone not mentioned by name, who provided me with medical care and support.

I prayed for holiness, comfort, guidance, and sacramental blessings, and God sent to me Fr. Jack, Fr. Jim Gretz, Fr. Bill, Franciscan Brother Chris, Fr. John, and all of the clergy who provided me and my family with their special blessings.

I prayed for an angel on earth, and God sent Mara, my rock, my love, and my life.

I prayed for a miracle, and God created Noah, my most precious gift, who I know will carry on my legacy with the help of Mara and all of you.

I prayed for grace, and God provided that grace through the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I prayed for strength, and the Holy Spirit descended upon and dwelled within me.

I prayed for Eternal Life, and God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins by hanging on a cross, shedding his precious blood for all of us.

I prayed that I would be welcomed to heaven by those who have gone before me, and I was greeted by Grandma Cerreta who comforted me during my illness, when she spoke to me through her spirit, assuring me that "I had everything I need", she was right, Grandma and Grandpap Alterio, Grandma Jobes, Grandma Machuga, Aunt Barb, Bussie, Jean Sukolsky, John Bracale, Wayne Casciola, Will Staso, and so many more beyond my greatest expectations.

I thank those of you who have prayed for me, supported me, and comforted Mara and our families.

I thank each and every one of you who have traveled from near and far, and those who could not be here, for being a part of my life.

I thank Drew for playing my musical request today, which is my way of saying "May Peace be with you".

I am sure that I have missed someone, but if so, it's Mark's fault.

I look forward to being with all of you again.

And so, my prayer for you is this:

Love God;

Live your life;

Laugh often;

And Love one another.