

Priest credits cancer 'cure' to prayers

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A priest attributes his unusual remission from liver cancer to prayers offered to the founder of his order.

Rev. Mario Bordignon, 67, said he had written the Vatican to tell them of the cure he believed was effected by prayers offered to Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini.

Bordignon's doctor said he concluded in February that the priest, who is pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church, had two to five months to live, though he was treating him with chemotherapy and other drug therapy.

The priest said recently he felt fine and believed he was cured of a disease that is invariably fatal.

He said he believed he had been helped by priests of the Scalabrini order all over the country who asked people to pray for him to Bishop Scalabrini. Bordignon said he believed Scalabrini heard the prayers and interceded with God on his behalf.

Scalabrini, who died in 1905, founded the Scalabrinis, formally known as the Missionaries of St. Charles, to look after refugees and immigrants, including many Italian immigrants who had come to the United States.