



# First Communion

As told by Thomas J. Fahey, Jr., M.D.  
Chairman of the Board, Calvary Hospital, Inc.

People who are facing death come alive at Calvary. And I believe that is nothing less than a miracle.

Such a miracle happened to a 32-year old mother about to die of uterine cancer. Hour after hour, she'd lie motionless with her face turned to the wall. Finally, one of our Pastoral Care staff members was able to coax this deeply depressed, deeply religious woman to express her greatest fear.

*"I'm not afraid of death," she said, "I'm afraid that I won't be able to see my 7-year old daughter make her first Holy Communion."*

So we did something about it. After contacting the woman's parish and learning that her daughter still had six weeks of catechism left, we convinced her priest to put her on a

crash course to finish in half the time.

When the mother heard the news, this woman, who had virtually stopped living, came back to life.

Her daughter's first Holy Communion was celebrated right here in Calvary's Interfaith Chapel — with her family, with members of her parish, and our Calvary staff too. Because the mother was poor, a friend paid for her little girl's white Communion dress. And her Calvary physician, Dr. James Cimino, chipped in with a huge cake for the

reception and a beautifully wrapped present topped with balloons.

At the end of the ceremony, when the little girl gave her mother a rose, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. And when she died a few weeks later, she died in peace. 🌹

