A Man and a Fork

A young man had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as he was getting his things in order, he contacted his priest and had him come to his house to discuss certain aspects of his final wishes.

He told him which songs he wanted sung at the service, what scriptures he would like read, and what outfit he wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the Priest was preparing to leave when the young man suddenly rememberedsomething very important to him.

"There's one more thing," he said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the priest's reply.

"This is very important," the young man continued."I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The priest stood looking at the young man, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young man asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the Priest.

The young man explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. She said..."

"In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and

Keep your fork.

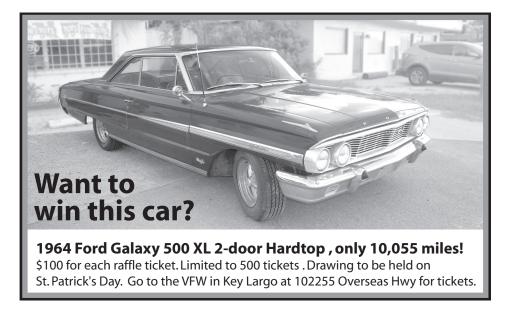
"It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!"

"So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?'

Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come."

The priest teared up as he hugged the young man goodbye. He knew that the young man had a better grasp of heaven than he did. The best is yet to come.

(We thank Trader Dick for this one.)







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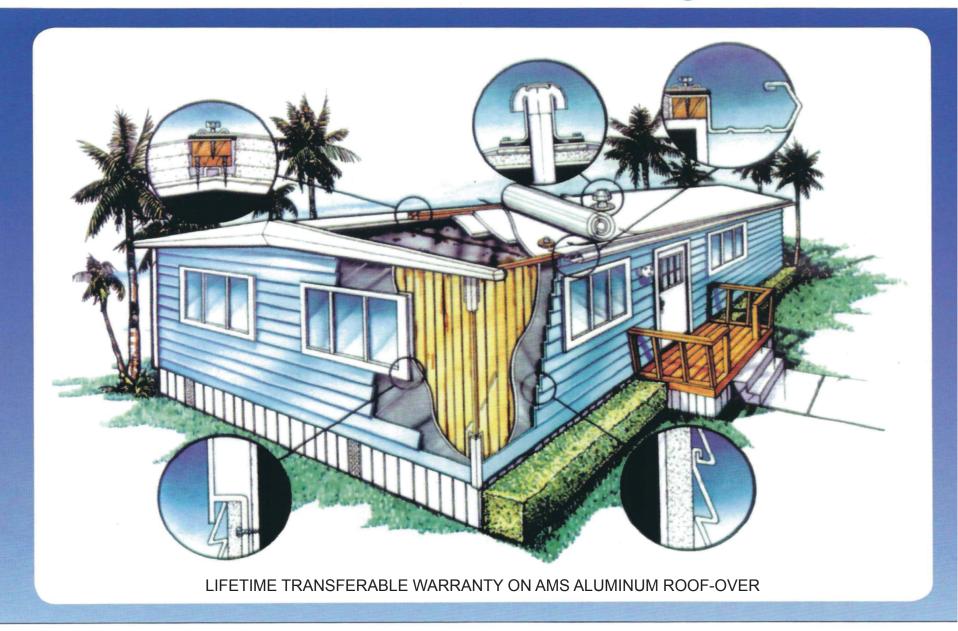
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