

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO

No. 8 – APRIL 2007

Brother Stanley Murakami has posted a countdown calendar announcing the days until the completion of the remodeling of the Marianist Center. Brother John Haster's enthusiasm is contagious not only for us but also for the workers who are taking evident pride in this project. Brother Jim Roberts, a talented and hard working consultant, is also overseeing the transfer of treasures from the San Juan Residence and the Villa to the Center. Brother Tom Suda and Mr. Steve Weiner work quietly and steadily and exceptionally well. The organ Brother Howard Hughes had shipped from Baltimore is now in storage pending the final work on the chapel at the Center.

Brother Bob Wade is eager to raise the American flag at the Center. Mrs. Grace Pancipanci has given employees tours of the Center and is working hard to finalize work assignments to take effect when we move to the Center. But care for those living at the Villa continues to be the top priority for our staff. The other day four cars left early in the morning to take persons for various medical check-ups. All the reports have been reassuring. Just as I was drafting this report, however, Father Jack Rielly had to be taken to the hospital. He returned the same day and we are praying and hoping for his recovery. The good news is that he hasn't lost his appetite.

More than 100 Lay Ecclesial Ministers were recognized for their service to the Diocese of San Jose in a special ceremony on March 15. Among those honored for leadership in adult faith formation was Brother Bill Bolts. Bishop Patrick J. McGrath presided and paid tribute to Bishop Pierre DuMaine, "who from the beginning of the diocese encouraged and empowered lay people to serve the Church." Brother Bill Bolts gave us an informative report of the Los Angeles Religious Education Conference he attended recently. Also attending was Father John McEnhill who helped out at the Marianist Vocation booth.

For Saint Patrick's Day we had a tour of the Marianist Center and then enjoyed dinner at the Alcalde House. For Saint Joseph's Day we

celebrated our patron for the last time at Villa Saint Joseph. And at a recent community meeting, Brother John Haster reminded us that we would be celebrating Holy Week and Easter Sunday for the last time at the Villa. Father Jack Rielly and I attended a Memorial Mass for Mr. James Meagher in Moraga. Jim and I entered the SM in 1944 and we also taught together a few years later at Saint Louis College in Honolulu. It was Jim and his family along with Father Jack's family who introduced me to San Francisco on my way to Hawaii in 1947. We celebrated Brother Stanley Murakami's birthday on the 24th and Father Tom Hogan's birthday the next day. On the 26th, we celebrated the great feast of the Annunciation which this year was transferred from Sunday. This is one of those four days a year, one each season, when Marianists throughout the world pray in a special way for all those whose lives we touch. We also remember the deceased of the extended Marianist Family the day after the feast.

Brother Skip Matthews was a lively guest who brought us up-to-date on adventures in the Marianist West Hills community and then left with a truck load of items from the San Juan Residence to distribute to the poor he serves in Los Angeles. I had an enjoyable meeting with Mr. Richard Brown who was in town recently. Richard, who lives in Phoenix, is the author of "When Ministry is Messy" and is currently giving workshops on pastoral ministry in various dioceses and parishes. Richard was a member of the former Province of the Pacific and has kept in touch with me and other Marianists over the years.

When Brother Joe Wasy is with us in chapel I often note how he mouths the words of familiar hymns and prayers. He also joins us regularly for meals and then signals he is ready to return to his room by vigorously ringing a hand bell! Brother Charles Ehrenfeld has continued his collecting of used cans, although now the cans are brought to him for packing and selling. Brother Charles E. has a series of intentions he announces at community prayer that I find very helpful, especially his remembrance of the three Health Care Centers of the Province. Brother Elmer Dunsky invariably follows by inviting us to pray for our families, friends, former students.

We mourned the death of Brother Ed Fick who had served in Hawaii at the time of the creation of the Province of the Pacific and was a member of the Villa Saint Joseph Community for a time. He made final vows with

Brother Charles Boglitz. I am running out of titles for Brother Gene Frank. As a retired archivist he is very busy! Besides guiding the music in chapel and assuring the smooth operation of our computers, he has launched an attractive and informative Web site and blog: <http://usamarianist.blogspot.com/> The latest posting gives a fine description of the foundation that Mrs. Grace Pancipanci set up in the Philippines to help support the work of our community there. Brother Gene also wrote about Brother Skip Matthew's recent visit to Cupertino. Besides all that, Brother Gene is one of the key persons taking people for medical appointments.

Brother John Samaha continues to write articles and posts news items while keeping in touch with his ailing sisters. He seems to be at ease about gathering up his mountains of papers and moving them to the Center. The same is true for Brother Tom Deasy who has many items to take with him! I am renewing contacts with various persons with whom I worked while serving as Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of San Jose. Recently I celebrated Mass with the Sisters of Notre Dame at their headquarters and retirement center in Belmont. On such occasions I always mention, with gratitude, that I was taught by the Sisters in Hamilton, Ohio "a few years ago!" So many of the Sisters know so many of our men here in Cupertino that I was busy answering questions and giving the latest reports.

We were told that in March 2006, there were only four days when it did not rain. In March of this year there were only four days when it did rain. The experts remind us, however, that we could still have some rain in April. Meanwhile, we are enjoying wonderful weather. As I look forward to the great feast of Easter, I want to send you my heartiest greetings for this great season. It is my hope and prayer that the Easter Season may bring fresh enthusiasm for all of us!

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