

Cupertino Marianist Community
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GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO – MARCH 2008

I left Cupertino on February 12 and I am scheduled to return March 12. This report will recall a few events from early February, an overview of my time away thus far, and finally some notes about what I heard about life back home.

On February 2, in celebrating the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we remembered the anniversary of the day in 1801 when the first eleven members of the Bordeaux Sodality made their act of consecration, committing themselves to an apostolic life in solidarity with each other, under the leadership of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Maria Duce*. Incidentally, as many of you know, *Maria Duce* is the screen name of Brother John Samaha who continues his intense pace of writing, publishing and sending. As I travel, many tell me how much they appreciate hearing from Brother John. And I am happy to tell them that he continues to thrive in Cupertino!

The first week of February was filled with excitement as California voters turned out in surprisingly large numbers for the primary. Most of our men, along with many others, vote absentee. And for Notre Dame fans Signing Day was an encouraging event. We also enjoyed a Super Bowl party thanks to Brother Tom Deasy's monitoring of a temperamental TV.

Brother Pat McMahon was finally released from El Camino hospital and is being cared for at the Center where he is a welcome addition to the community. I just missed the celebration of his birthday on February 13. My friend from Fribourg, Rome and England, Sister Margarita Byron, FCJ, was again in our part of

the world and I was happy to welcome her back to the Center she had visited long before the remodeling.

The long awaited drivers' tests for those over 70 were finally scheduled. I was first on the list because of my travel schedule. I found the experience interesting and helpful. The first hour and a half was a test to check awareness and alertness, the second ninety minutes was a road test. The tests were set up for Fridays and in the course of a few weeks all of us senior drivers passed the tests with flying colors.

In Cupertino there has been a series of inservice programs for the staff to which members of the community are invited. I noted one on "Earthquake and Fire Safety" and another on "Stress Management." If you are in the area, you are welcome to join us for any of these presentations!

The early arrival of Lent competed with the slow arrival of spring, but as we moved towards Easter, the hills were brightened with new grass and wild flowers sprang up there as well. At the Center we had Lenten devotions and noted that Father Jim Mifsud, although retired from Queen of Apostles, continued his traditional weekly Lenten presentations.

The community bid farewell to Mr. Kevin Heddy who had worked so faithfully and well on the remodeling – and welcomed back Brother Tom Suda who promptly went to work with Mr. Steve Weiner in building the Saint Anthony Greenhouse which had been a special project designed by Brother Jim Roberts as a memorial to Brother Anthony Young. Brother John Haster continued to oversee improvements at the Center. The most challenging seemed to be the smooth functioning of the closed circuit TV in the chapel designed to link those confined to their rooms to the celebration of the community mass and other events.

I was celebrant for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the next day I went to Dayton to visit the Marianists at Mercy Siena, then went to Saint Louis for the February meeting of the Provincial

Council, returning to Dayton for the funeral of Brother Max Beyer and the official visit to the Alumni Hall Community on the campus of the University of Dayton. I am in the middle of that visit as I write.

I am scheduled to be back in Cupertino in time to join my community in celebrating the great events of Holy Week and Easter before going back to Saint Louis for the meetings of the Provincial Council and the Aging with Grace committee in March.

Whether in Cupertino or away, be assured I am with you in spirit, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist which transcends time and space. May the coming Easter Season be a time of fresh enthusiasm!

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