

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO

No. 7 – MARCH 2007

These days we have many signs of spring, especially the flowering of trees at the Villa and throughout the neighborhood. At the Rancho San Antonio park where I walk, the wild turkeys have made their appearance. Everything there is fresh and green, although we have had comparatively little rain so far this year. The really dry spell was from December 27 to February 7. But I remember another February a few years ago when the Transition Coordinating Committee was here – and it rained every day! While the décor in chapel changed for Lent, wonderful tulips graced our tables in the dining room. The construction project is nearing completion and Brother John Haster gives us regular updates. Soon everyone will be living in the Center, Alcalde Residence or Bordeaux House. Meanwhile, from Saint Louis, Brother Richard Dix announced that Villa Saint Joseph and the San Juan Residence (former Provincialate) are about to be sold.

We had the usual mix of feasts and birthdays in February, beginning with the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on the 2nd, followed by the World Day of the Sick on the 11th, Valentine's Day, and Mardi Gras. On the 18th we celebrated Brother John Haster's birthday and it was Brother Vince Wayer's turn on the 27th. We also celebrated unofficially the Chinese New Year. Besides Brother Richard Dix, other visitors were Brother Stephen Glodek, Mrs. Maria Klein and Brother Jim Vorndran. Mrs. Mary Ellen Garcia also came from the Provincial Office to work with the personnel who will be continuing with us when we move to the Center. And Mrs. Sue Wesselkamper always drops in to visit whenever she is in the area.

Evidently God still has things for Brother Charles Boglitz to see and talk about – and he responds very well to that kind of mission. One quote is priceless: “Some morning the nurse is going to come in here and look at me and say ‘He’s dead!’” You have to hear a triumphant tone in his voice as you read this! Meanwhile, Brother Joe Wasy keeps going day by day. Just when we think he is beginning to fail, he is wheeled into chapel to join us for prayer – and he rarely misses a meal. But I did overhear Ms. Esmeralda Rodriguez coaching him how to respond when asked how he is doing. While Mrs. Nancy Romano continues her rehabilitation from shoulder surgery she manages to publish Brother John Haster's Director's Bulletins.

The first accident at the construction site was a frightful experience as Mr. Steve Weiner's right hand was caught in a table saw. Fortunately, he was well cared for at El Camino Hospital and it is hoped that he will soon regain the use of his hand. Father Jim Imhof returned from his weeks in Mexico where he helped the Marianist District. Mrs. Grace Pancipanci returned from the Philippines where she has set up a foundation to assist our Marianist community in Davao City in their work with youth. Father Bill O'Connell faithfully continues physical therapy and is

able to walk a little further each time out. When he and Father Larry Mann preside at Mass we use a portable altar.

Father Jim Imhof presided at the Ash Wednesday liturgy while Brother Paul Fennelly led us in the Way of the Cross (the Pope John Paul II edition) on the Friday after Ash Wednesday. Father Jack Rielly is a retired Faithful Friar (of the Knights of Columbus) but has resumed taking his turn to be celebrant for the community Mass and hasn't lost his touch for one-liners, e.g., "It was more appropriate for Peter to be seated on a rock rather than in a chair." He also added an exhortation to "get out of our chairs" as we celebrated the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter. Father Jack is very faithful in following a strict diet which regulates the kind of food – not the quantity. He eats heartily!

Brother Gene Frank works well with the various prayer leaders (Brother Paul Fennelly, Father Jim Imhof, Brother Stanley Murakami and Brother John Samaha) in assuring appropriate music for community prayer and liturgies. Among those who sing, I find Brother Elmer Dunsky's strong and sure voice inspiring.

In February I resumed my ministry of participating in meetings, although my schedule is nothing compared to that of Father Dave Schuyler who has multiple responsibilities. I was an observer at the first Conference of Marianist Boards in Dallas, February 15-18. This meeting brought together representatives from the various boards governing the universities, schools and retreat centers. It was very encouraging for me to find so many people eager to understand the Marianist charism better and share ways and means of giving our institutions a more emphatic Marianist identity. It was good being with Brother James Vorndran who came over from Maui to represent Saint Anthony's. Upon my return to Cupertino I shared my impressions of the meeting with the community.

I also led a community discussion of the General Chapter document: "In Mission with Mary." One of the strengths of our community is that many are eager to know what is going on in the worldwide Marianist Family.

On the last day of February I went to Saint Louis for the meeting of the Provincial Chapter at the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center in Eureka. Again, upon my return to Cupertino I gave a report of the meeting for those interested in hearing more about this historic meeting – historic, because it was the eleventh and last meeting of the Provincial Chapter as it was set up at the beginning of the Province. The next chapter will have a new configuration designed to assure even better participation from every major geographic area of the Province. The spring meetings of the chapter have been especially interesting because of the participation of the superiors of the Districts of Eastern Africa, India, Korea (until it became an independent region) and Mexico.

As we move rapidly through Lent, be assured of my continued union with you in prayer as together we prepare for Easter.

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