

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO

No. 9 MAY 2007

I wrote my last letter at the beginning of Holy Week and now we are in the sixth week of the Easter Season. It is the great season to celebrate life. Every day we are reminded that Christ conquered death. We experienced this great truth most dramatically in the sudden death of Brother James Roberts on May 10, just a week after we had laid Father Ed Johnson to rest in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, the final resting place of the Marianists who died in California. Brother Tony Pistone and Brother Skip Matthews came from West Hills for the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Edwin. Father Dave Schuyler gave a superb homily which I hope is published. (Please check the official obituaries and Brother Gene Frank's blog for more details about Father Ed and Brother Jim.) At our Holy Hour of thanksgiving for Brother Jim's life there were several inspiring comments about the impact Brother Jim had on our lives. I was especially impressed by Brother Bernard Foster's account of how Brother Jim had cared for him and brought him from Marianist Hall in Honolulu to Villa Saint Joseph in Cupertino.

We also celebrated the power of the sacrament of healing. On Good Friday I anointed Father Jack Rielly before he was taken to the hospital where he experienced a resurrection of sorts on Easter Sunday! He returned home during Easter week and enjoyed hearing that a notice sent out from Saint Louis listed his condition as "lover failure" rather than "liver failure." He didn't deny this. The doctors and staff have worked wonders to keep him in good condition. He participates in all community activities and is well pampered by the staff. When he tried to bring his walker into chapel he was told he would get a parking ticket; when he cast longing eyes on ice cream, he was told "Not for you, Honey!" He claims he has permission to cheat once a week, but he is carefully watched.

The day before Brother Jim Roberts died, Father Jim Imhof anointed Brother Joseph Wasy who was near death. But as Brother Joe recovered during the night, Brother Jim slipped away in the sleep of death. Earlier, at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, Brother Jim had completed the preparation of the niche for the statue of Our Lady in the new chapel at the Marianist Center and told Brother John Haster that he was going up to the Villa to prepare the

birthday party for Brother Paul Fennelly, the first of five birthday parties scheduled for May. Brother Paul and all of us are grateful for Brother Jim's love for parties! Reminders of Brother Jim are all around us in the paintings displayed at the Center. Meanwhile, Brother Joe Wasy has recovered to the point where he is concerned about not forgetting the number of his room at the Center!

Our services for Holy Week were held in the dining room and all progressed smoothly. Brother Richard Dix was with us for the first part of the week, making his final check on the work at the Center. We had a grand farewell for him, thanking him for his encouragement and guidance from the very beginning of the project. Brother Charles Boglitz made another visit to the hospital, but returned to the Villa to wonder why everyone was dying before him! At the end of the month I went to Saint Louis for the meeting of the Province Peace and Justice committee.

When I travel I always try to go a day early so I had time to accept an invitation to join Brother Robert Metzger, Father Dave Paul and Brother Thomas Payne for a Cards-Reds game at the new stadium. Brother Tom took a photo which was promptly published in *FamilyOnline*. The Reds lost. After our meeting I took a debriefing walk in nearby Forest Park. It was a glorious day and as I walked briskly a youngster passed me with the hearty greeting "Hi, Pops!" A few hours later Brother Leo Slay came to take me to his nephew's restaurant for dinner while we compared notes of the work he had done for us at the school cafeteria at Saint Anthony's on Maui and what was expected of him when he came to review the kitchen setup in Cupertino.

Sunday I attended Mass at the magnificent cathedral which is a short walk from the Marianist residence on Maryland Avenue. Later I visited with Mrs. Nancy Davies and her daughter Linda and enjoyed dinner at Ozzie's restaurant. On Monday I returned to Cupertino where Brother Paul Fennelly filled me in on local news as we drove home from the airport. The next day I gave a report of the province meeting to several members of the community and was reminded of the impact that Father William Ferree has had on many of us by introducing us to what he called the Act of Social Justice. Brother Elmer Dunsky also spoke about the Sister-City program in which he had been involved and later told me he had written his thesis on social justice. Brother Tom Suda, who had been with his mother for her last days and death and burial, returned promptly to pick up where he left off in his work at the

Center. Brother John Samaha continues to publish at a record pace and also posts items of interest received via Internet.

A few members of the community attended the Diocesan celebration of consecrated life on April 14 where Bishop P.J. McGrath honored 42 jubilarians currently serving in the Diocese of San Jose. The group includes three from our community: Father Tom Hogan and Brother Joe Wasy (70 professed) and Father John McEnhill (60 professed). As items were moved from the Villa to the Center, Father Tom Hogan commented that he felt like Mother Hubbard because "the cupboard is bare!" Brother Robert Wade can't wait to see whether he can fit all his treasures into his new room. Meanwhile, others like Father Larry Mann seem serene about the move. We suspect that Brother Charles Ehrenfeld is taking notes. Mrs. Grace Pancipanci organized an excellent welcoming meeting for the new staff. Father Joseph Stefanelli gave an overview of the Marianists. Mrs. Mary Ellen Garcia came out from Saint Louis to oversee the status of the old and new workers. Ms. Esmeralda Rodriguez and Mrs. Pura Rodriguez gave inspiring talks as they reminisced about their many years of service with us.

I attended a conference on immigration reform sponsored by the Diocese of San Jose and Santa Clara University and I hope to keep this issue alive in our community and province discussions. We also celebrated the feast of Mary, Mother of Graces and Mediatrix. Father Patrick Tonry, SM, and Mrs. Lisa Gooding came to California for meetings with alumni and the Marianists. Timothy J. Fogle, Executive Director of Mercy Center in Colorado Springs, was also our guest while attending a workshop in San Jose. Now we are preparing the burial of Brother Jim Roberts. Father Tim Kenney is coming as the representative of the Provincial Council. Mrs. Nancy Romano prepared booklets for both funerals. She also assists Brother John Haster in regularly publishing an informative and inspirational Director's Bulletin. Thanks for Easter Greetings and notes of sympathy received these days. We are with you in thought and prayer.

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