

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO – OCTOBER 2007

Our Labor Day celebration was centered on midday Mass, social and bar-b-que – in glorious weather. Then came a series of Marian and Marianist feasts which we celebrated in spirit with the other members of the Marianist Family around the world. On September 5, feast of Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, we were especially mindful of the parish in San Jose staffed by many Marianists from 1985 until this year. September 8 was the feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary and we chose that date as a Day of Thanksgiving to honor friends “whose vision gave rise to our new home.”

We had many guests for this memorable occasion: Brother Stephen Glodek, Father Jim Fitz and Father Joseph Lackner from the Provincial Administration and Brother Richard Dix whose patience and expertise as a member of the previous Provincial Administration assured the success of this project. Father Tim Kenney was also with us as were Ms. Diane Guerra and Brother Frank Spaeth. Immediately afterwards there was an exodus of sorts as Brother John Haster, Brother Joseph Nu’uanu and Father Dave Schuyler all went to Hawaii. All returned promptly with tales of life in the Paradise of the Pacific.

The Holy Name of Mary, September 12, is our Patronal Feast and is one of four days a year, one in each season, when Marianists around the world unite in prayer for all those whose lives we touch. On September 15 we celebrated Our Lady of Sorrows, the day after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Our magnificent chapel at Regina Mundi in Fribourg was dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, and I remembered that some seminarians joked that “*Notre Dame des douleurs*” really meant “*Notre Dame des dollars*.” Here in Cupertino we have a conflict on September 18, the anniversary of the first Marianist martyrs, which we move each year to September 19 because the 18th is the feast of Saint Joseph of Cupertino, celebrated as a solemnity in the city.

That afternoon we had a Holy Hour of Thanksgiving as we recalled Father Don Bracht’s many years of service in California. I left on the 19th to go to Dayton for the meeting of the Provincial Chapter in Dayton and was the homilist for the Funeral Mass for Father Don. I returned to Cupertino on September 25 in time to adapt the homily for the Mass of Christian

Burial that evening. Father Dave Schuler was celebrant for the Mass and also presided at the cemetery service.

Most of the Marianists in the Bay Area attended, including Father Ray Malley who is participating in the Vatican II program at Menlo Park. Later in the week Father Ray returned for a visit and we surprised him by celebrating his birthday. His chauffeur for this occasion was Father Jim Myers, SSS, director of the Vatican II institute. We had several other lively birthday celebrations: Father John Bolin on the 4th, Brother Bill Bolts on the 7th, Brother Bill McCall on the 10th. On September 26 I gave a report on the meeting of the Provincial Chapter. We were also blessed with a number of guests for September, beginning with Brother Leo Slay who continued to work with the kitchen staff calmly, cheerfully and capably.

We welcomed Father Mako Watanabe who is well remembered here as a former member of the Villa Saint Joseph community. Brother Frank (Skip) Matthews came for a repair job on his knee and kept us all hopping. Mr. Chris Boudreaux was with us for a few days as were Brother Tom Spring and Father Dan Triulzi. Father Tom French is a weekend member of the community. At the end of the month Sister Maureen McInerney, OP, came for a short visit as well. Father Jim Mifsud made his first visit here since retiring as pastor of Queen of Apostles. Other midday guests included two groups of Dominican Sisters.

Father Jack Rielly and I represented the Marianists at the bishop's annual garden reception for religious on September 16. A special treat was the annual visit from Singers around the Bay. October began with remarkably mild weather. The first of the month is weigh-in day – and it must have affected Brother Robert Wade because he fell dramatically in chapel just after receiving Holy Communion. The good news is that I never saw Brother John Schlund move so fast as he cut across chapel to come to Brother Bob's rescue and help save the furniture! After a shot of orange juice Brother Bob was quickly revived and showed up at lunch with a fancy cane.

One day a month is designated as hair cutting as a visiting barber helps each one of us look a little younger. Despite the mild weather, the water aerobics are on hold until next summer. But a new feature of life here is the opportunity for a relaxing massage every first and last Thursdays. Mrs. Grace Pancipanci and her staff also offered flu shots to prepare us for the winter season. Many of us followed baseball, college and professional football with great interest, but probably more disappointment than satisfaction – although as I write Father Larry Mann is enjoying the success of the Cleveland Indians as the playoffs begin.

In my walks in the park I made a new discovery as I came across a giant tarantula sauntering down the middle of the road in broad daylight. I didn't challenge it. On another occasion I spotted an amateur photographer at work and was amazed when I saw that his camera was fixed on a bobcat waiting patiently in the high grass for some unsuspecting victim. I also came across two tiny snakes slithering across the path with amazing speed. Perhaps I will meet them at some later date when they are in full strength.

We had some repair work on the gated entrance while Mr. Steve Weiner was busy installing screens on various windows; Brother Stanley Murakami was trying to work out the bugs in the new phone system; and there were other projects on Brother John Haster's list as indicated in his 73rd Director's bulletin when suddenly at the close of evening prayer on October 1, he announced we would have champagne for dinner to celebrate the final approval of the construction project received that day from the Cupertino city council. The next day we celebrated the feast of the Guardian Angels, our Foundation Day, and early the following morning I returned to Dayton, this time as a member of the Provincial Council meeting with the directors of the Marianist communities, including Brother John Haster. I'll tell you about that in my next report.

Meanwhile, be assured I am with you in thought and prayer – ever grateful for your interest, encouragement and prayerful support.

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