

## **Greetings from Maui!**

September is very much a month dedicated to Mary, especially for us in the Society of Mary. In quick succession we celebrated the feasts of Mary, Queen of Apostles, Mary's Birthday and the Holy Name of Mary, our Patronal Feasts. Later we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. But at Saint Anthony's the real Marian month began October 1 with recitation of the rosary before each mass and the singing of at least one Marian hymn at each of the Sunday masses.

Weather reports and the price of gas dominated the news this past month. From a great distance but close in spirit, we followed the devastation of the hurricanes Katrina and Rita and admired the generosity of those who came to the assistance of the victims with gifts of time, talent and treasure. Here both the parish and the high school contributed to relief funds. As the month came to a close we braced ourselves for a weekend of wind and rain in the aftermath of tropical depression Kenneth in the Pacific region. But the weekend turned out to be mostly sunny, which was fine for the county fair. As for gas, the key word was surprise. Basic regular gas ranged in price from \$3.24 to \$3.96 a gallon over the course of the month.

Father Ray and I attended the meeting of the Vicariate at St. Joseph's, Makawao. Most of the priests serving parishes on Lanai, Maui and Molokai were present. A bonus was the splendid weather! Makawao is on the way to Haleakala so it is cooler. I was surprised to see the clear, blue sky we don't see down here in the shadow of the West Maui mountains! No wonder Brother Frank Gomes loves the setting! It is there that he continues to care for his brother John. The Vicariate meeting proved to be very interesting beginning with a presentation by the local director of hospice and a discussion about how we can work together more effectively in caring for the dying. Father Ray volunteered to update the phone listings of parishes in the Vicariate. We also moved forward in making the Vicariate more hi-tech, noting this was one of the points emphasized by Bishop Larry Silva. Several parishes on Maui have web sites and

the plan is to coordinate these to make a website for the Vicariate. Brother Jim has made the development of a parish website as one of his special projects.

After celebrating the 6:30 parish mass in honor of the Triumph of the Cross (September 14) I flew to Honolulu for a week's visit centered in the beginning of the year-long celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chaminade University. While I was in Honolulu, Brother Jim went to Baltimore, for a province meeting on parish ministry. He recruited Denis Cabacungan to accompany him. The principal item on the agenda was the introduction of the Just Faith program.

To cover while both Father Ray and I were away, Father Jack Rielly arranged his annual visit with the Maui affiliates immediately after the celebrations in Honolulu and relived his past experience as pastor of Saint Anthony. Among other things, he was the celebrant for the funeral of Mrs. Florence Burns, mother-in-law of Rodney Teixeira, our Supervisor of Maintenance.

While Father Jack was here at Saint Anthony's and Father Ray away on a home visit in California, I was in San Antonio for the fall meeting of the Provincial Chapter. The main item on the agenda for that meeting was the study of a report prepared by the Provincial Council giving their judgment about how things are going in terms of the priorities we had set for ourselves at the beginning of the new province.

It was great seeing so many of the Brothers and other friends in San Antonio and I was also able to celebrate mass and enjoy dinner with our Marianist Sisters, especially honoring Sister Durie's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Meanwhile, Brother Jim returned to Saint Anthony's in time to join Father Jack Rielly in welcoming the Marianist Affiliates on Maui for their annual meeting

As a missionary teacher in Africa, Brother Jim Vorndran was also a librarian, so he quickly responded to the invitation to put order in

our archives. His most interesting project at the moment, however, is preparing survival kits – prompted by his experience as a missionary and his skill as a nurse. He has also given himself the title of the director of the airport express. The trait we appreciate best of all, however, is his enthusiasm for cooking.

My return to Saint Anthony's was brief but busy. I was on call for medical emergencies until Sunday. Saturday and Sunday I was celebrant for six masses, including the funeral of Mr. Benedict Furtado, wife of Elsie who manages the Thrift Shop. Our Deacons and lay ministers do so much so well that I never feel rushed. Now I am off to California for the annual meeting of the Directors of Marianist Communities. I am scheduled to return a few days before Father Ray returns from his home visit.

Be assured I am with you in thought and prayer...

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