

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO – MAY – 2008

I am editing this report as I go from San Jose to Saint Louis for the April meeting of the Provincial Council. In this letter I will try to capture some of the highlights of life in Cupertino since my last report written at the end of March. Since writing that report I was in Saint Louis for the meeting of the Aging with Grace committee and the meeting of the Provincial Council, March 27-April 3. Later I was in Honolulu for a week during which I assisted at the jubilee celebration, April 12. One of the jubilarians was our Director, Brother John Haster.

While we were in Hawaii, Brother Frank Spaeth of the Marianist Hall community was told by his doctors that he needed heart surgery. Brother John suggested that this be done in California, with recuperation here in Cupertino. Arrangements were made quickly and Brother Frank is scheduled to undergo bypass surgery in California on April 30. Brother Frank had visited Cupertino regularly over the years so he is very much at home with us and seems quite peaceful as he prepares for another turning point in his life.

Meanwhile, Brother Urban Naal is following a regimen of chemotherapy while continuing his walks exploring the neighborhood. Brother Bob Wade appears and disappears, but when he is present we are quite aware of it! Best news of all is that Brother Pat McMahon is able to get around with the use of a walker on his best days. He even joined the Wednesday lunch/outing group at a nearby restaurant. Our shut-ins, Brother Charles Boglitz, Father Tom Hogan, Brother Bill McCall and Brother Joseph Wasy seem to be coping well, enjoying the springtime which has finally arrived.

Brother Howard Hughes has guided us through the Easter Season with obvious delight – continuing to encourage us as he introduces new melodies: “You’ll be fine!” (But we are not always fine!) The great symbols of the Easter Season – the Paschal candle and a crystal bowl of Easter Water – are faithfully cared for by Brother Stanley Murakami while Brother Joseph Nu’uanu and Mrs. Nancy Romano assure outstanding floral displays in chapel. Mrs. Grace Pancipanci and her staff are busy keeping track of all of us and making our life here cheerful. Mr. Jesse Rosario and his staff assure great meals.

Brother John Haster continues to oversee improvements, the latest being the completion of the treatment of various windows and the final installation of shower dams. The PA system in chapel with a closed circuit TV seems to be working well for those who wish to follow the Mass in their rooms. Mr. Steve Weiner assisted by Mr. Les Gremett, have set up a garden fence and gate outside Chaminade Hall. Brother John Haster seeks assistance in building carports in both parking lots. So, all in all, everything is going well in Cupertino these days. I trust that was what Brother Stephen Glodek experienced as he made a stopover on his way to Honolulu.

In chapel Brother Charles Ehrenfeld has a series of intentions which he invites us to pray for day after day; Brother Elmer Dunsky follows with an invariable prayer “for our families and friends” occasionally adding a special prayer for former students, sometimes by name. Father Jim Imhof introduced reflections about the visit of Pope Benedict. The

last word at the time of the General Intercessions belongs to Father John Bolin who reads the Necrology with great clarity and emphasis.

Brother Gene Frank continues to update his blog which rivals the Marianist network. He is also busy learning Spanish – while working out on the treadmill. Brother Vince Wayer sets up the rooms for our guests and Brother John Samaha is one of the principal tour guides while continuing to write for publication – the latest being “Mary’s Influence on Converts” published in VOCATIONS AND PRAYER. Among recent visitors were Father Johann Roten and his sister Mrs. Bernadette Roten-Kaufmann and their friend Mrs. Bernice Bacher. I took this group one day to visit the giant redwoods in nearby Big Basin Park. As we drove through the scenic route the group delighted me with the singing of *La Haut Sur La Montagne* – a melody familiar to all of us who studied in Fribourg. I only remembered the first line of this haunting song, but they knew all the verses! A blessing of the St. Francis of Assisi statue donated by the McEnhill family was scheduled for March 30 but a sudden attack of shingles that sidelined Father John McEnhill caused a postponement of the festivities. Father John seems to be doing well, however. Brother Paul and I spotted him walking around the neighborhood when we left for the airport early Saturday morning.

The April calendar had a number of interesting features beginning with the First Friday celebration and continuing with the remembrance of the feast of Saint John Baptist De La Salle on the 7th followed by the birthday of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade on the 8th. While I was in Hawaii the community celebrated Brother Stanley Murakami’s feast day and the birthday of Ms. Esmeralda Rodriguez on the 11th. April 12th was the jubilee celebration in Honolulu, while in Cupertino Mr. Myles McCabe met with members of the community interested in supporting his work as the Director of the Peace and Justice office for the Province.

The community also enjoyed the presence of Mrs. Mary Ellen Garcia, Province Director of Human Resources who came to Cupertino to meet with Mrs. Grace Pancipanci and staff. Awards of appreciation were given to members of the staff and community and staff celebrated her birthday. Brother John Samaha and Mrs. Grace Pancipanci took Mrs. Mary Ellen Garcia to Santa Cruz just before her return to Saint Louis. When I returned to Cupertino I took Father Jack Rielly to Santa Cruz for the annual alumni luncheon which featured a power-point presentation by Brother Joseph Aspell about his art work.

The next day I was one of three drivers who drove various members of the community to the Diocesan celebration of consecrated life, featuring this year’s jubilarians. From our community Father Larry Mann and Brother John Haster participated in the mass and reception while our other jubilarians, Brother Charles Ehrenfeld, Brother Gene Frank, Brother Howard Hughes and Brother Robert Wade were with us in spirit – I hope! We had a lively community meeting on the 21st including a report by Brother Vince Wayer about temporalities and an update on the Emergency Evaluation Plan. Brother John also announced that Mrs. Nancy Romano had a new title, Director of Activities, which corresponds well with the many things she does for so many members of the community. He also announced plans for a first year anniversary celebration and a memorial mass for Brother Jim Roberts and Mr. Al Minoletti. On the 22nd we remembered Earth Day and the

next day we celebrated the feast of Saint George (remembering especially Father George Cerniglia and Father Jorge da Silva) as well as the birthday of our faithful and talented gardener, Mr. John Wray.

The latest issue of ALIVE featuring Brother Skip Matthews is a best seller in our house. Like other communities in the Province we signed the Child Protection Policies statement. Most saw or read Brother Stephen Glodek's video presenting the Strategic Planning Process. Later I participated in the conference call with the facilitator, Mr. Tony Fitzgerald, and the other members of the committee. Father Dave Schuyler went to Hawaii for the Chaminade University Board Meeting and the dedication of the Sullivan Library taking with him a message of prayerful support of Mrs. Sue Wesselkamper, President of Chaminade University, as she prepares to go to Lourdes.

Looking back to Holy Thursday, I remember the mounting of one of Brother Jim Roberts' paintings of the Risen Christ that had been set aside in 1970, uncompleted, in the Marianist community in San Francisco. Brother Pat McMahon remembered this and Mrs. Nancy Romano engaged her sister, Mrs. Dianne Vercellino, to complete the splendid painting. At about the same time a friend since meeting Mrs. Grace Pancipanci in the supermarket, Mr. Peter Anzellotti, presented us with a splendid coffee table fashioned from a cottonwood burl. Both the table and the painting now enhance the Fireplace Room – now officially the Chaminade Hall Meeting Room. After completing the first draft of this letter I arrived in Saint Louis a few minutes ahead of schedule and took the metrolink to the Central West End where Brother Tom Payne was waiting patiently for me. Sunday morning I awoke at my usual 4:00 time – only it was 6:00 in Saint Louis and then began my day of transition in preparation for the meeting of the Provincial Council. After the meeting I will stay a few days in order to assist at the jubilee celebration here before returning to Cupertino for most of the month of May. Incidentally, May is Older Americans Month!

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 Easter Season continue to be a time of fresh enthusiasm, - all the more as we prepare for the great feast of Pentecost!

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