

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO – JUNE 2008

So much has happened since my last report written at the end of April! In this report I shall try to capture some of the highlights of life at the Cupertino Marianist Center in May and so far in June. In other reports I have written about my own work in Saint Louis and San Antonio.

I left Cupertino on Saturday, April 26 to go to Saint Louis for the meeting of the Provincial Council and the jubilee celebration for the Marianists in the Saint Louis area. When I returned on Sunday, May 4, I learned that the community had celebrated May Day as Lei Day thanks to Brother Joseph Nu'uaniu who had obtained flowers and ti leaves from Hawaii. I also learned that the community had enjoyed a Multi Cultural Day on May 3 organized by a member of our staff, Ms. Janet Unciano, who brought fellow students from Gavilian College in Gilroy for a day of exhibits, dance, song, poetry, storytelling and "a fabulous global menu for lunch." On Sunday, May 4, the community celebrated the feast of the Ascension and the birthday of Mr. Roy Sonson.

I was fortunate to stay in Cupertino until after Memorial Day when I again went to Saint Louis for meetings. The celebration of Cinco de Mayo coincided with Boy's Day. Then we celebrated Brother Paul Fennelly's birthday on May 9 at which time he announced that he had finally accepted his doctor's insistence that he no longer drive. And so we lost our No. 1 chauffeur who was always willing and never complained. For his birthday Mrs. Nancy Romano had prepared a giant crossword made up of clever comments about Brother Paul's life, e.g., 10 across "full of tact, kindness and politeness." (8 letters).

May 10 is a special day for us as it is the anniversary of the death of Brother Jim Roberts who worked so hard and well to make our home beautiful as well as functional. On that day I received word of the death of Brother Hermann Huber, who gave twenty years of his life to the General Administration community in Rome where he maintained a flourishing

vegetable garden and orchard. At the age of 90 he was still working in the garden – in Fribourg – when he collapsed and died a few hours later. May 10 is also Damien Day. Pentecost Sunday was also Mother's Day and remembered accordingly. The following week we celebrated the feasts of Mary, Mother of Graces and Mediatrix on May 12 and Our Lady of Fatima on May 13.

Visitors during this time included Brother Bill Bolts, Sister Doris Rauenhorst, OP and Father Jim Imhof's nephews Mr. Steve Imhof and Mr. Tim Imhof. Brother Urban's sister Mrs. Rosemary Hewitt and his niece Mrs. Dianne McKay were also our guests. Father Tim Eden and Brother Gary Morris were our guests before the jubilee celebration. Brother Jim Swicki, SJ is a regular visitor. Brother Jim Leahy has been a faithful visitor over the years and is currently helping transfer Brother Pat McMahan's treasures from San Francisco to Cupertino. Most of the Marianists, including candidates, from the West Hills community came for either Brother Joe Wasy's funeral on June 5 or the jubilee celebration on June 7 – or both.

There were other visitors but I failed to note names and dates. Some drop in for lunch or simply a visit. The administrative staff of Archbishop Riordan High School used our facilities for three days of meetings and we frequently have some members of the Society of Jesus as guests. We are never alone – and all are welcome! We observed Brother Frank Spaeth's birthday on May 16 and celebrated not only the anniversary of his birth, but his steady recovery from heart surgery. On Saturday, May 17 we had an Open House to mark the first anniversary of the move from the San Juan Residence and Villa Saint Joseph to the Marianist Center. For this occasion Mrs. Nancy Romano had prepared an attractive brochure: *Getting to know us*.

We were also united in spirit with Brother Tom Farnsworth and Brother Luis Gamboa as they made their first profession of vows in Dayton. On May 18, Trinity Sunday, we remembered the birthday of Brother Tom Suda. He and Brother Richard Dix are honorary members of our community while residing in San Antonio. May 19 was Brother Joseph Nu'uaniu's birthday and also the date when a group left for a visit to Reno, returning presumably more

wealthy and certainly more relaxed a few days later. Meanwhile, Brother Stanley Murakami visited his brother in Seattle and Brother John Haster went to West Hills for a meeting of the Directors of Communities in California with the Area Coordinator, Father Dave Schuyler. On May 23 we celebrated Brother Gene Frank's birthday and two days later the great feast of Corpus Christi, followed by Memorial Day. The cold weather kept us inside for the picnic lunch! With the help of Brother Robert Wade, Mrs. Nancy Romano had prepared a patriotic display in the fireplace room. We also survived the smoke that covered much of the Bay Area as a result of a dramatic fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Brother Joseph Nu'uanu and Mrs. Nancy Romano assure splendid floral displays in chapel, enhanced for the feast of Corpus Christi by a gift from the graduating class of Archbishop Riordan High School.

Mrs. Nancy Romano has also set up an office in the Physical Therapy Room and from there she edits the Director's Bulletin and various publications besides creating the birthday displays, special days activities, outings and Center events. We celebrated Father Bill O'Connell's birthday on the feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury on May 27. The next day I returned to Saint Louis for the meeting of the Provincial Council. While I was away the community celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart. This was the spring remembrance of all those who touch our lives – it was also Mrs. Nancy Romano's birthday. The next day we celebrated the feast of the Visitation. It was on this great feast of Our Lady that God called Brother Joe Wasy to himself after a long illness.

On June 1 there was a long delayed dedication of the statue of Saint Francis in the rose garden with more than thirty relatives and friends of Father John McEnhill attending. Later several went to Santa Cruz for a farewell; we had served at the Newman Center, 1965-1970 and again 1987-2008. I returned to Cupertino on the afternoon of June 1, too late for the celebration in the rose garden and too tired to go on to Santa Cruz for the farewell there. But Brother Stephen Glodek, SM and Brother Jack Ventura, SM did make it to Santa Cruz flying to San Francisco and driving directly from there to Santa Cruz.

Brother Urban Naal seems better each time I return to Cupertino, and Brother Pat McMahon is able to get around better, but the biggest surprise was to see the nurse taking Brother Charles Boglitz outside after being confined to his room for months. Brother Joe Wasy had been under hospice care and we now have two others under hospice: Brother Elmer Dunsky and Brother Bill McCall. Brother Gene Frank combines his workout on the treadmill with his study of Spanish. From time to time the fire alarm malfunctions and we are immersed in overpowering sound and flashing light. Fortunately, the two times I experienced this were during the day – and several of us gathered outside until someone mercifully cut off the alarm. The gate on Merriman Avenue seems to be functioning well now.

Work continues with the help of Mr. David Rodhe, to perfect the audio video installations throughout the Center. The fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains dominated the local news for several days. Brother Howard Hughes continues to delight us with his gentle comments as he introduces new hymns, for example, "I'm taking a chance with this" but always adds his reassuring note "You'll do fine!" We use various hymnals, one of which he calls "the little Hughes book!" Brother John Samaha continues to write for publication and also reminded us that *La Mission Apostolique de Marie et la Notre* by Father Neubert was translated by Father Joseph Stefanelli, S.M., as *Mary's Apostolic Mission and Ours*. One of our neighborhood friends, Mr. Peter Anzellotti, gave us more special gifts in memory of his recently departed wife: a giant chess set and a 50 year old prize winning stag-horn plant.

We had a community remembrance service for Brother Joseph Wasielewski, SM on Wednesday, June 4 and the Mass of Christian Burial on June 5. June 4 was also the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Marianist Province of the Pacific. Brother Joe had requested to be buried in San Antonio where his sister and other relatives are still living. (They had just visited Brother Joe a few months ago). I was asked to go to San Antonio for the funeral there. I have written about this in another report. Meanwhile, we had a grand jubilee celebration in San Francisco on Saturday, June 7. Quite an illustrious group was honored and most were able to attend:

Brother Charles Ehrenfeld and Father Larry Mann (75 years professed)
Brother Howard Hughes and Brother Robert Wade (60 years professed)
Father George Cerniglia, who presided and preached,
Brother James Dods, (from Honolulu) Brother Eugene Frank,
Brother John Haster, Father Jack Russi (50 years professed)
Brother Tom Oles (from Nepal) (25 years professed)

There were community council meetings, staff meetings, inservice training sessions and on June 9 a special celebration for Nursing Assistant Day. Brother Tom Deasy faithfully assures Tuesday and Thursday matinees. New activities are beginning to pop up on our monthly calendar: Fedora Friday, Honorary Brother Tony Beyer Root Beer Day, and Backyard Croquet day. There is something called Monday sitercise and always Wednesday outings, with massage therapy available on the first and last Thursdays.

Most popular event of the week is the Friday afternoon ice cream social. Most recently Mrs. Sue Wesselkamper made that event especially memorable as she came over from a meeting in Oakland to visit with us – and view the display prepared in memory of Father John Bolin.

Mrs. Grace Pancipanci balances an intense study program, care for her family, and wonderful service to all of us, especially to those needing nursing care. I always find it interesting in my travels that I am often asked “Do you have a good cook?” And I am pleased to reply that Mr. Jesse Rosario consistently provides great meals.

Upon my return from San Antonio I had just a few days before going on to Saint Louis for the meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee. While in Saint Louis I received word that Father John Bolin died at the Center (he had been hospitalized briefly) on Sunday, June 15. After our community remembrance, funeral mass and burial I shall write about Father John in another report.

Whether on the road or at home in Cupertino I always begin my day by reflecting on the daily Scripture readings – and as often as I can I try to walk

for a brisk hour. The latest danger warning in the Rancho San Antonio park alerts us to honey bees! I haven't seen these yet – but I have seen a few snakes warming up for the summer season. I had a few new experiences in Saint Louis on my last visit there: a little rabbit on Maryland Avenue as I began my walk – and later I met a very serious young man on a unicycle. After one early morning walk I used the example of a robin fighting to hold on to a prize worm as an example of being focused.

In Cupertino I continue my ministry of spiritual direction and my ongoing correspondence. Somehow I have been able to do that and be a frequent flyer without rushing and without anxiety.

On June 26 I am returning to Saint Louis for a meeting of the Provincial Council and from there I am going to San Antonio where I shall conduct a retreat for a group of fellow senior Marianists as we pray and reflect together on "Our Mission as Senior Marianists." I return to Cupertino on July 13.

Here we pray regularly for our families, friends and benefactors.

I am ever grateful for your prayerful support and encouragement. Be assured you are in my thoughts and prayers as well ...

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