

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO – JULY 2008

In addition to these monthly letters in which I try to give a picture of life at our Marianist Community in Cupertino, I have decided to write other general letters from time to time to report on my days away from Cupertino. The first of the new series of personal letters was entitled June 26-July 13 – Tale of Two Cities. The general letters about Cupertino may be accessed through our Province Newsletter, *FamilyOnline*, ordinarily at the beginning of a month. But if you wish to receive the Cupertino and the personal letters directly by e-mail, please send me your e-mail address at Stutas@aol.com.

Brother Bill McCall died on July 9. I had said goodbye to Brother Bill before leaving Cupertino in June. He had been under hospice care for some time. I returned in time to participate in the farewell services, leading the community remembrance on July 14 and the burial on July 16. Father George Cerniglia presided at the Mass of Christian Burial and Father Ted Ley was homilist. The Marianists on retreat at nearby Vallombrosa Center came to Cupertino for the mass. (cf. *FamilyOnline* for more details)

On Sunday, July 20, Brother Stanley Murakami called me to say that they were taking Father Jack Rielly to El Camino hospital for treatment. I was able to anoint Father Jack just before the arrival of the paramedics. It was the third time I had anointed Father Jack in the past 18 months. I am happy to report that after several days in the hospital he began to talk again, first incoherently and colorfully (he continued his fantasy about Brother Joseph Nu'uanu moving to an apartment!) and should be back at the Marianist Center by the time this letter is published.

Brother Elmer Dunsky continues peacefully under hospice care. One of his nephews, Mr. James Dunsky with his wife Rita came out to be with Brother Elmer for several days. They were very much at home with us and we exchanged many interesting stories about Brother Elmer. Father Tom Hogan is also confined to his room but is relatively stable and always welcoming when I drop in to see him after breakfast. Brother Charles Boglitz is in fragile condition but instead of talking about dying, he has now declared that he hopes to outlive Brother Elmer in order to be the last surviving member of the group that made their first profession of vows in 1935. Brother Pat McMahan is generally able to join the community for prayers and meals and is responding well to medication and physical therapy.

Just after I left Cupertino in late June there were a series of remembrances here: Mrs. Ruby Arteaga's birthday on June 27 and Brother Howard Hughes' birthday on June 28. There was also a special Marianist Mission Mass in San Francisco on that date to thank

our special benefactors. Father Jack Rielly had invited many for this event and was disappointed that he was unable to attend himself. The community celebrated the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul on June 29, noting the anniversary of the approval of the Rule of Life on that date in 1983. Brother John Samaha has been a special promoter of the Pauline Year. Although Brother Frank Spaeth has been with us for several weeks recuperating from heart surgery, the community officially welcomed him on June 30 while his brother and sister-in-law were in town. We also formally welcomed Father Bob Hertweck who has gracefully made the transition from Hawaii to California.

Mrs. Nancy Romano has organized many activities, including special drives to spots of interest in the Bay Area. Her displays for birthdays and special events are remarkable. After remembering Mrs. Pura Rodrigues' birthday on July 3, the community had a lively celebration for July 4 (Mass, Patriotic Americana Art Demonstration and BBQ) and on the next day celebrated the special Californian Marian Feast, Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners. July 7 was the birthday of Ms. Editha Ringpis and that day there was a visit to the Allied Arts Guild. On July 10 a walking tour of Villa Montalvo was scheduled (with the warning "stairs, grades and gravel!") but the 100 degree weather postponed that outing. On July 11 the community celebrated the feast of Saint Benedict, our Patriarch, and welcomed Brother Roberto Rivera. The next day Father James Bartlett was our guest. Matinee movies and socials continued as scheduled.

Events I noted since my return to Cupertino included the remembrance of Bastille Day on July 14 featuring a morning drive to Olsen's historic fruit stand nearby. The Major League Baseball All Star Game on July 15 was noted but not passionately celebrated. On July 17 there was a special luncheon honoring our chef Mr. Jesse Rosario and his staff and we celebrated Father Jim Imhof's 87th birthday. On July 19 we remembered Mrs. Patricia Rodriguez on her birthday. Brother Jim Vorndran made a short but lively visit as did Father Allen DeLong, Father Tim Eden and Brother Gary Morris. Some of our priests went to Santa Cruz to participate in a Reconciliation Service for the LIFE program.

Several of those making the retreat at Vallombrosa were our guests either before or after the retreat along with others who were passing through California. Those that I noted included Brothers Richard Dix, Nick Rufo, Tom Spring and Dan Stupka. Brother John Samaha was very busy showing guests some of the marvels of California and I pitched in with trips to the Big Basin Park (big trees) and the Mission at Carmel. From time to time we have a friendly but unwelcome guest: a skunk – or two. No one has seen the animals, but they have a way of making their presence noted.

Brother Howard Hughes continues to charm us by his meticulous preparation of the music for our community prayer, choosing hymns with great care and adapting them for us. He is always encouraging and is truly a remarkable gift. He modestly refers to one of the hymnals as "the little Hughes book." A phrase from the psalms about making a "joyful noise" might describe our singing. Father Bill O'Connell always concludes his homilies by suggesting they give us "food for thought." Brother Charles Ehrenfeld consistently invites us to pray for a series of intentions, beginning with the Sunday prayer of thanks for all our gifts.

Brother Frank Spaeth continues his convalescence methodically, and at the same time contributes his skills in making rosaries and sewing. He has also taken up Brother Elmer's refrain of inviting us to pray for our families and friends. He is also hopeful of helping out as a chauffeur very soon, picking up some of the slack left when Brother Paul Fennelly was forced by illness to retire from driving. Brother Paul serves, however, as does Father Joseph Stefanelli, by answering the phones at certain times.

On July 21 we celebrated one of our great Ancestors of Courage with a Root Beer Day in memory of Brother Anthony Beyer. July 23 was Brotherhood Day and the first Swim of the Summer for Father Larry Mann and Brother Bob Wade, assisted by Ms. Janet Unciano and Mrs. Nancy Romano. July 24 was Tell An Old Joke Day with Bro. Urban Naal talking about the old bicycle that was too tired to go on. The July 26 National Day Of The Cowboy included colorful signs and a lively Sing-A-Long, Texas Two Step with Mrs. Nelli Sequeiros and Ms. Rosa Mendoza before Mr. Jesse Rosario's BBQ.

The carport for the cars used by those residing in the Bordeaux House and the Alcalde House has been completed and work on the carport for the community sign-up cars at the main entrance is nearing completion. Steve Weiner was capably assisted by Mr. Les Gremett in this project. We are learning how to use, not abuse, the new copy machine. A feature I noted on my return that seems to have been taken for granted is the remarkable landscaping that, as designed, has gradually covered over the unsightly air conditioning units around the Center.

On July 22 I represented the community at the funeral of Father Mike O'Connor, a retired diocesan priest. It gave me the opportunity to reconnect with many with whom I had worked for several years as Vicar for Clergy. I was especially pleased to see Bishop Richard Garcia who came from Monterey, replacing Bishop P.J. McGrath who was in Australia for World Youth Day.

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.