

**Marianist Community -- 22683 Alcalde Road -- Cupertino, CA
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Tuesday, August 05, 2008

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Cupertino!

On July 9, after a long illness, Brother Bill McCall passed away. He had been under hospice care in the last weeks of his life. We had a community remembrance of Brother Bill on July 14, the mass of Christian Burial on July 15 and burial at the Marianist plot at nearby Gate of Heaven cemetery on July 16.

Thank you for being with us in thought and prayer during Brother Bill's long illness.

At the mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Father George Cerniglia, SM, our Provincial Assistant for Religious Life. Father Ted Ley, SM was the homilist. Mr. James Adams, President of Chaminade College Preparatory and Mrs. Frank Fanger also spoke.

Attached is a summary of our community remembrance of Brother Bill. At this time I do not have copies of the other reflections.

Stephen Tutas, SM

Remembrance of Brother William McCall, SM
September 10, 1926 – August 15, 1956 – July 9, 2008
Cupertino, July 14, 2008

Our flag was at half-mast and Ms. Nancy Romano had prepared a colorful exhibit of photos and memorabilia as we gathered for evening prayer Monday, July 14 to remember Brother William J. McCall, SM.

After our opening hymn chosen by Brother Howard Hughes, SM to remind us of Brother Bill's service in the Navy, I introduced our prayer with these words: "This afternoon we remember Brother Bill McCall who died here at the Marianist Center on Wednesday, July 9

in his 82rd year and 52nd of his life as a Marianist. It is the third time we have gathered as a community in recent weeks to pray for one of our recently deceased fellow Brothers. It is a special occasion for us to thank God for what God has done for them and to pray confidently for the grace of eternal rest."

Brother Stanley then gave us an overview of Brother Bill's life: "Brother Bill was born in Camas, Idaho, on September 10, 1926, to William and Sara Frances Byrnes McCall. He entered the novitiate on August 14, 1955 and professed vows the following year on August 15, a classmate of Brother Joseph Nu'uau. Bill had served in the navy in Florida during the Second World War. With his GI bill of rights he completed his Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Loyola University on June 15, 1952. Ten years later on June 17 he was awarded a Master's Degree in English Literature from the same Loyola University in Los Angeles. His teaching career took him from his beloved Chaminade College Prep to Archbishop Riordan HS in San Francisco, Archbishop Mitty in San Jose, and to far away Saint Louis School in Honolulu and Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, Texas. Prior to his assignment to the Province of the Pacific Development Office in 1992 he spent two years on the staff of Chaminade University in Honolulu. While at Riordan he became the moderator of the speech club, an activity in which he took great pride and satisfaction by assisting students to develop their verbal skills in debate. Of course, he is more known for the High Sierras program that he participated in at Chaminade in West Hills. Even while he was in development work in Cupertino he would use his summer vacation time to go on those trips. Bill was a good community man, an administrator, a dedicated classroom teacher, a man of prayer – although he found the use of ribbons as markers in our prayer book and the constant shifting from one end of the book to the other somewhat baffling at times. In his 52nd year of his Marianist profession God called him home on July 9. May he rest in peace."

I then gave greetings from Brother Richard Roesch in San Antonio who had expressed his appreciation of Brother Bill for his professional and devoted life. Father John McEnhill had prepared the following statement which he asked Brother Vince Wayer to present for him:

“Bill McCall was a man of many talents hidden behind a reserved façade. He was an administrator. He took over the post of President of Chaminade College Preparatory at a time in its history when it needed his thoughtful guidance to get it through some awkward situations which could have damaged its credibility as a Catholic school. When his term of office was over he slipped quietly back into the ranks. His great love of the outdoors and in particular of the High Sierras brought about the summer experiences that affected so many young peoples’ lives. For over a quarter of a century he lead the summer experiences with the aid of faithful friends and colleagues. But it was in the classroom that Bill made the greatest impact on young minds. As the teacher of English he brought to his pupils a love of the language and of literature. He was demanding; that his students would attest to. But behind the firmness they all sensed his great care for them, that he saw what they were capable of. When Chaminade grads of the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s come back to their alma mater, one of the teachers they always ask about is ‘Brother Bill.’ He leaves a great legacy in the hearts and minds of his students.”

Mr. Frank Fanger then spoke about his friendship with Brother Bill, recalling several colorful incidents from their years together, especially on hikes in the High Sierras. He emphasized how Brother Bill was such an effective “father figure” for so many of the students. He also pointed out Brother Bill’s great respect for nature and love for people.

Brother Frank Spaeth followed with comments about Brother Bill’s zest for life and his ability to inspire confidence. Brother Robert Juenemann recalled Brother Bill’s devoted work in the Development Office, especially his ability to develop strong relationships with so many alumni simply by phone conversations. Brother John Haster remembered how he called him “Chief” and then shared this comment he had received from Brother Bill Bolts: “One thing that may be forgotten I want to bring up so that it can be mentioned. It involves Chaminade’s purchase of the Chatsworth campus from the Sisters of Mercy. Bill was President at the time of the purchase. He had some top-notch financial advisors on the Board of Directors. The purchase at that time in the early or mid-1980’s was providential for the school.”

After a concluding prayer and the singing of the Salve Regina we had a social at which we shared more stories about Brother Bill and his impact on our life.

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