

Remembrance of James Alexander Imhof
Born 1921- First Profession 1940 - Ordination-1951
Died at the Marianist Center, Cupertino, Calif., Oct. 5, 2011

Once again we gather as a community
to remember one of our recently departed brothers.
As we have prayed for Jim's peace in his illness,
and celebrated the Eucharist in thanksgiving for his life
and in confident petition for the gift of eternal rest,
we now come together for a special community prayer of thanksgiving and hope.
Appropriately, we are incorporating
our remembrance of Father James in our evening prayer in honor of Our Lady of the
Rosary.

Jim, as many of you know, had a great devotion to the rosary
and led the recitation of the rosary
at the bedside of several of our fellow-brothers in their last days.
I find it also significant that Brother Jim Christiana
was with Father James quietly praying the rosary
when God called Father James to himself early Wednesday morning.

After our opening hymn we will recite the psalms as usual,
then Brother Stanley will give us an overview of Father James's life
and I will introduce our sharing of remembrances
of what Father James meant to us at Villa Saint Joseph
and at our Cupertino Marianist Center Community.
We will then sing the Cantic of Mary
followed by the usual prayers for this feast
and conclude with the singing of the Marianist doxology.

Jim was a great gift to so many Marianists who lived and died here in Cupertino. Many years ago he came from Florida to serve as chaplain of the community for several years. As Father Leo Uht before him, he was very clear that he was a member of the staff and not a resident in need. He came here to serve, not to be served. Like Father Leo, however, that status changed in his last years. Jim was very caring for the sick among us, visiting them regularly and assuring them of communion and final anointing as long as he was able to do so. At table Jim shared his remarkable grasp of American history and geography and recounted many of his adventures from his life in Malawi, Zambia and especially in Puerto Rico where he served for many years.

Brother Jim Christiana spoke of his relationship with Father Jim, underlining Father Jim's great devotion to the rosary and his appreciation for visits...In one of his last requests, Father Jim asked that his rosary be given to Father Joe Stefanelli (who had gently replaced him in bringing Holy Communion to anyone unable to come to chapel). Then Brother Jim walked over to Father Joe to give him the rosary. Brother Skip Matthews spoke about caring for Father Jim in Zambia when he suffered an attack of malaria – and how Father Jim expressed gratitude for this all his life – even to their last visit Tuesday night. Brother Pat McMahan shared with us how he and Father Jim helped each other – first when Brother Pat was bedridden then later when Father Jim needed assistance. Brother Pat also spoke about Father Jim's relative, Brother Charles Imhof, a missionary in Japan. Brother John Samaha added four notes about Father Jim: his appreciation for the priesthood, his

eagerness to exercise his priestly ministry, his delight in companionship and in the evident mutual love in his family.

Nancy Romano recalls how kind Father Jim was to her daughters: "Mia, my oldest daughter always referred to Jim as "Father Puerto Rico." He liked to talk to her about things "Spanish" and quiz her when she was in town! He read many of her essays, which were written in Spanish, and he would comment on them!...And Jim was always interested in Alyse, our ballerina, because his niece was also a dancer and the two girls trained at the same Ballet Campus with American Ballet Theater in Tuscalusa, Alabama...and who can forget the lively Campfire discussions between Fr. Jim, Tom Deasy and Jim Leahy!..."

In my last informal report from Cupertino, dated September 23, I had written "At times Father James Imhof is confused – he was concerned about snow the other day. Occasionally I see him riding around the property. He is our pre-eminent bird watcher. Now, however, he stays more in his room."

I believe a note from Brother Gary Morris echoes the thoughts of many: "May the gift of his long and faithful Marianist religious life be a source of strength for everyone at the Center."

And I might add – for all who knew Father James Imhof throughout the world...

Stephen Tutas, SM