

Cupertino Marianist Community - Cupertino, California

August, 2012

Greetings from Cupertino – again and at last!

I returned to Cupertino Tuesday afternoon determined to try to resume these monthly reports about Marianist life in my home on the West Coast. I am grateful to all those who kept in touch with me since my last general letter months ago. I am now in good health and try to walk an hour a day in the hills of the Rancho San Antonio park nearby. And I was able to write a daily “Page From My Notebook”* which included occasional updates as well as a prayer generally based on the daily Scripture readings.

I went to Dayton to participate in the meeting of the Province Task Force on Sponsorship (collaboration in mission and ministry) which was held in Dayton so that we could attend the Province Jubilee celebration traditionally scheduled on the weekend nearest the great summer feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I stayed on for a few days as a guest of the Alumni Hall community at the University of Dayton and was able to visit several relatives and friends and fellow-brothers in a short space of time.

I did have some contemplative moments as I drove through Hamilton, my home until I went to Mount Saint John in Dayton where I began my journey as a Marianist 70 years ago. I also had nostalgic visits to the cemeteries in Hamilton, the University of Dayton and Mount Saint John. Just as in Cupertino, the early morning hours were mine. The only sound I heard at that time in Dayton was the soothing sound of train whistles. After mass, I made time for urgent desk work, and occasionally I had a brisk walk around campus before setting out on my projects for the rest of the day.

As I got settled in Dayton, this headline caught my attention:

*Life's good for older Americans! Despite national gloom,
seniors are largely content, optimistic and financially secure.*

The media bombarded us with political news and nasty ads, continually emphasizing that Ohio was a swing state and that the presidential vote was expected to be “razor-close”. On a lighter note, the Reds won most of the time while I was in town. My first night in Dayton we had a tremendous thunderstorm, but I slept through it and only heard about it the morning after! I kept hoping for a repeat performance but all we got was very pleasant weather, bright and sunny for the most part, with below average temperatures.

Classes were about to begin at the University of Dayton. The maintenance and grounds crews were hard at work cheerfully preparing the attractive campus for the beginning of a new school year. This past weekend was an exciting time to be on campus as students arrived with parents and friends. UD's class of 2017 is reputed to be "the largest, most academically prepared, and most geographically diverse class in school history. For the first time, more than half the first year class is from outside Ohio. There are 1,500 international students, primarily from China." The campus has changed dramatically since my student days – and even since my last visit here. Joe Aspell's sculptures of Chaminade, Mary, Seat of Wisdom and Saint Joseph as well as various Marianist banners are reminders that the university is Catholic and Marianist.

Before leaving Cupertino I enjoyed the community celebrations of Father Larry Mann's 96th birthday and the 25th anniversary of Father Joe Hartzler's ordination. While I was in Dayton Father Marty Solma, our Provincial, and Father Paul Marshall, our regular Provincial visitor, went to Cupertino both to thank Father Dave Schuyler and Brother John Haster for their years of service as Directors of the Marianist Cupertino Community and also to install Brother Thomas Redmond as the new Director.

The Province publishes an online newsletter called FAMILY ON LINE and a magazine entitled ALIVE. If you are not already receiving these great communications, I encourage you to contact Ann Mueller at amueller@sm-usa.org giving your e-mail address to receive FAMILY ON LINE and your mailing address to receive ALIVE. Both are free for the asking. Tell Ann I urged you to do this and please send me a copy of your e-mail to Ann so that I can update my own file. The latest issue of ALIVE includes features on Grace Pancipanci, the Director of Nursing at Cupertino, Father Bill O'Connell, Brother Tom Redmond and Father Dave Schuyler. I hope to give you more news about the community in my next report, including some quotes like Father Larry's response to the comment that 96 candles were too many for the traditional birthday cake "Get a bigger cake!" Or Father Bill O'Connell's declaration on seeing the Oakland cathedral "This makes me proud!" Meanwhile, be assured you are in my thoughts and prayers, ever grateful for your interest, encouragement and prayerful support.

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