

CUPERTINO MARIANIST COMMUNITY -- CUPERTINO, CALIF.

September 2012

Greetings from Cupertino!

I began writing this letter on the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, September 12. This, as many of you know, is one of four days in the year – one for each season – when we Marianists pray in a special way for each other and for all those whose lives we touch, beginning with our families and friends near and far.

About a month has passed since my August letter. We have had many feasts, birthdays and anniversaries. Our flag was at half-mast twice: once for a CHP officer who was killed in a routine traffic stop, the other for 9/11.

The first day all 29 of us were home was on Labor Day, September 3. Brother Tom Redmond began our community meeting that day by commenting how impressive it was to see all of us in one room. He outlined his hopes for the year and shared with us an overview of his personal history from the time of his graduation from Mitty High School here in San Jose. He had to leave the next day for meetings in Saint Louis but left us a homework assignment: to present our suggestions for the community council. Brother Tom is scheduled to return on the 14th and will then meet with Brother Stanley and Brother Dave Betz to set up the council and schedule future events. Meanwhile, our former director, Father Dave Schuyler, announced that he will be taking some time away, principally with the West Hills community in southern California.

There have been other changes. Father Larry Mann is now at the end of the hallway. He now has a longer ride to and from chapel and the dining room. His former room was assigned to Brother Larry Scrivani, the newest member of our community. Brother John Samaha moved quietly from his room in Saint Mary Hall to one in Saint Joseph Hall, near the Nursing Station. That hasn't slowed him down, however, in terms of writing for publication, giving talks in the area, occasional chauffeuring while at the same time maintaining and developing relationships all over the Bay Area. He is undoubtedly the best known Marianist in this part of the world – and as I have found out over the years, in other parts of the Marianist world as well. Father Joe Hartzler roams the neighborhood, sometimes accompanied by one of the nurses, but often by himself. He is coping well.

Brother Jim Christiana continues to seek relief from pain, even as he tries to be present in the chapel and dining room. The same is true for Father Larry Mann who enjoys

overseeing the dining room “taking attendance” and checking out guests. He is quite alert and cheerful, but communicates more these days with expressive non-verbals than with his witty one-liners. Among recent guests was Brother Ed Violet who is very much at home with us ever since his work on the Transition Coordinating Committee (TCC) many years ago. Brother Ed gave an informal report of some key items in the area of finance that came out of the recent meeting of the General Chapter.

September is a beautiful month in the San Francisco Bay Area, but the fields are golden rather than green and the trails in the park are literally as dry as dust. Our gardeners, John Wray and John Flood, do a great job in keeping the property fresh and attractive as we await the autumn rains. There are many beautiful areas, but my favorite is the rose garden near the main entrance. Brother Joseph Nu’uanu brings some of that beauty into chapel by his creative and splendid bouquets. His talent for printing was on great display several times these days as he prepared the community birthday greeting card envelopes.

Besides overseeing the flag and checking daily on the property, Brother John Haster distributes the mail, picks up medical prescriptions, and handles recycling while taking care of maintenance inside and out at the Alcalde House. Recently he had a nasty fall when trying to pick up the morning paper, but recovered quickly and well.

If someone calls during the day, Brother Paul Fennelly is the one who usually answers. Brother Paul also posts items from the Provincial Office on the bulletin board and makes copies for those who do not have e-mail access. Brother Bill Bolts’ outreach has gone beyond the Diocese of San Jose as he now serves on the Board of Trustees at Archbishop Riordan High School.

Shortly after my return from Dayton I had a severe summer cold which kept me speechless for a while. I experienced the care and concern of the nursing staff for a few days before returning to my usual room. I am now back to my usual pattern, although no two days are alike! One of my projects is to write to each jubilarian on the occasion of the actual anniversary. This year we have 103 jubilarians, most of whom made their first profession or were ordained in August or September. It is a pleasant task as I remember names of persons and places as I remember yours! Thank you for your interest, encouragement and prayerful support. Be assured you are in my thoughts and prayers.

ST