

## **Cupertino Marianist Community - Cupertino, California**

October 2012

Greetings from Cupertino!

Once again our flag is at half-mast. Shortly before sunrise on the first day of October, God called Father William O'Connell to himself. It was the first sudden death we have had in years. Although wheelchair bound, Father Bill had not complained of any serious illness and always took delight in telling us that he was "on top of the world." He was friend and brother to all of us. Our community remembrance was Tuesday, October 9. The mass of Christian Burial, with Father William Meyer, Provincial Assistant for Religious Life, presiding, was celebrated Thursday morning, October 11 with burial following at Gate of Heaven cemetery. I will send notes of these events later.

In recent days both Brother Joe Nu'uuanu and Father Dave Schuyler were moved temporarily to rooms near the Nursing Station. After a ten day sojourn in El Camino Hospital Brother Paul Fennelly returned to his post at central command, answering phone calls and making sure that all official communications are printed and posted for the benefit of those who do not access these documents by internet.

Brother John Schlund, besides being responsible for food purchasing, put aside his e-Bay activity as he took a group to Reno for a second annual pilgrimage. Brother Bill Bolts has begun a series of presentations at Saint Joseph of Cupertino Parish highlighting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vatican II. Brother John Samaha continues to write about this anniversary, the Year of Faith and other issues.

Father Larry Mann continues to entertain us. When it was mentioned at mass that Christ did not heal everyone and that, in fact, it might not be a good idea if all were healed, Father Larry agreed, commenting that "Nurses would be out of a job."

One of the nurses shared with us Father Larry's first words one day when he looked at the mirror and said "Look, no wrinkles!" That prompted a suggestion that we might arrange for a contest between our 96 year old and any 66 year old from the Retirement Home across the street.

I am happy to report that this year's sidewalk sale netted \$400. These sidewalk sales have become a popular annual two day autumn festival in Cupertino. Brother Tom Deasy and Brother Frank Spaeth devoted many hours setting up their one day sale. Afterwards Brother Frank was stiff and sore but gratified that hard work paid off!

Several of us attended the Bishop's Open House for Religious last month. Ordinarily Marianists remember the Spanish martyrs, Blesseds Carlos, Fidel and Jesus on September 18, but here the Feast of Saint Joseph of Cupertino takes precedence, so we shifted the celebration of our martyrs to the next day. Saint Joseph of Cupertino is venerated as the Patron Saint of air travelers, paratroopers, pilots, flight crews, astronauts, aviators, flyers (because of his gift of levitation) and also of students and test takers (because of his struggles when taking exams)!

Brother Tom Redmond and Brother David Betz are our newest homilists. Brother David made his debut by commenting on the life of Job from his perspective and expertise as a social worker. He also keeps us posted on various activities offered here and locally. Bingo still holds first place for most.

Brother Tom Redmond has been meeting with each member of the community but had to interrupt these sessions in order to go to Baltimore for the annual meeting of the Directors of Communities.

Several of us had a good view of the Endeavor as it made a farewell flight over the Bay Area. The park where I walk was filled with fellow-sight seers/hikers on the hilltops. We enjoyed the harvest moon and a gentle

transition from summer to autumn. One constant is that California is more golden than ever as the trails in the park are literally as dry as dust. Meanwhile we are enjoying the baseball playoffs, college and pro football games, golf and tennis tournaments – as well as the political ads and debates!

Many thanks for your greetings and assurance of prayerful support. We are very mindful of our special mission as a community of intercession for the needs of the Church and the world – and above all of our fellow-Marianists, families and friends.

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