

Cupertino Marianist Community - Cupertino, California

December, 2012

Greetings from Cupertino!

For the fourth time this year our flag is at half-mast in honor of one of our fellow-Marianists. Father David Schuyler died peacefully on November 19, shortly after being placed under hospice care. In August he had completed a three year term as director of our Marianist community and was looking forward to a more relaxed tempo of life.

After writing my November update I went to Saint Louis to participate in a workshop on aging presented by Dr. Richard Johnson. I missed some notable events here while I was aging gracefully away from home! Father Dave was placed under hospice care, Father George Onida arrived from the East Coast, Brother Dave Betz set up a Marianist Vocation Table at the Diocesan Faith Formation Conference and the community celebrated Father Joe Hartzler's birthday. I also missed the Veterans Day observance here and a meeting with the hospice care team, but I did return in time for Brother Tom Redmond's first birthday celebration as Director of our community.

Thanksgiving Day is always a special day for the community and staff, and this year was followed by Father Joe Stefanelli's 91st birthday and then Grace's birthday on the Feast of Christ the King. On the 23rd, our guest, Father Pat McDaid, gave a stirring homily on Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro who was executed in Mexico in 1927. During the month of November we were mindful of the faithful departed, with a special remembrance of those whose names were placed on our altar.

Among Brother Dave Betz's services to the community was engagement of a Wellness coach/personal trainer to help keep us in shape even as we age. With Father Dave's death and Father George's arrival we continue to be 27 in residence. One of the features of our community meetings is reporting on other meetings, such as the meeting of The Directors Of Health Care Communities and The Meeting Of The Community Directors. Brother Tom announced that Brother Stanley would continue as subdirector and that the three offices of Religious Life, Education and Temporalities would be directed by Father Ray Malley, Brother Dave Betz and Brother Frank Spaeth, with Father Joseph Stefanelli serving as a counselor at large. It was also announced

that Brother Ed Shiras, currently living in Marin, was officially attached to our community.

Brother Dave Betz offered several tours, such as a visit to the National Accelerator Laboratory, a Diwali celebration (Festival of lights in the Hindu tradition) Archbishop Riordan's production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* and a visit to the Marin Headlands. Despite the attractiveness of these outings, Bingo continues to be the most popular activity.

Thanks to Brother Bill Bolts' membership on the Board at Archbishop Riordan High School, his participation in Diocesan Committees on Religious Life and Lay Ministry, and his presentations at Saint Joseph of Cupertino parish, we are kept informed about the larger community around us. This is complemented by Brother John Samaha's contacts, especially with the Serra clubs in the area.

In order to attend Father Dave's funeral I had to change my return flights to Saint Louis, but I was still fortunate in obtaining exit aisle seats. Lately, however, when I check in to board the flight the attendant looks at me quizzically "Exit Aisle?" clearly questioning whether I can handle that. But so far I have passed inspection!

The first real rain of the season with high winds stripped our trees of their autumn splendor and beat down the purple sage bushes outside my room. They are down, but not out, and I trust that the humming birds and bees will be back when sunshine returns to Cupertino.

I am writing this December update as November comes to a close. On December 1 I will return to the Midwest for two meetings, first the meeting of the Aging with Grace Committee and then the concluding meeting of the Province Task Force on Sponsorship.

The last scheduled event in Cupertino for November will be the Mass and Burial of Father David Schuyler on the last day of the month – just a few days before what would have been his 80th birthday. We are looking forward to the great season of Advent – but already signs of Christmas abound. Brother Tom Deasy brought out his singing Santa Claus, first bald, then with a cowboy hat. And Christmas carols can be heard around our home. Best news of all was the return of Brother Joe Nu'uanu from El Camino Hospital – just in time to

supervise the setting up of Christmas decorations. In his absence, the staff took over decorations in the dining room and chapel.

Whether in Cupertino or away, be assured you are in my thoughts and prayers, grateful for your interest and prayerful support. May you have a Happy Advent – without rushing, without anxiety!

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