

CUPERTINO MARIANIST COMMUNITY

APRIL 2013

Greetings from Cupertino!

Holy Week at the Marianist Center is also the Annual Retreat for many of us. It is a special occasion to be mindful of our fellow-brothers, family and friends, as we go through a great week of prayer and reflection culminating in the joy of Easter. Father Allen Delong is the Retreat Director.

We welcomed the news of the election of Pope Francis and we have been inspired by what we have heard that he has said and done in his first days. I noted especially: "Don't let yourselves be robbed of hope! "Even at 70, 80, the heart doesn't age"

In the midst of the Lenten liturgies we celebrated the feast of Saint Joseph, a special day in our community and in the Diocese of San Jose. Father Joseph Stefanelli presented the homily as a reflection from our Founder, Father William Joseph Chaminade. Even though there was no liturgical celebration of Saint Patrick, March 17, it seems that everyone was Irish, at least for the day.

Father Lawrence Mann has joined us in chapel and in the dining room. This past week he enjoyed a visit with two of his nephews. When Father Larry puts his mind to it, he eats quickly and well. When I commented "You're fast!" He looked at me, and with mock disdain said "You're slow!"

While in the area recently, Patricia M. Lee-Robinson from Chaminade University joined us for lunch, remembering the years when she was a companion teacher with Brother Gene Frank and Brother Larry Scrivani "when he had black hair!" She gave us a lively update on The Office of Health Professions Advising.

One of Father George Onida's nieces stayed with us a few days. When I told her what a gift Father George was for us she replied "In our family we consider him a character!"

Our post-chapter video conference was well prepared by Father Jim Heft but suffered some glitches. Of note was this exchange: From the West Hills: "We can hear you but we can't understand you!" From Father Jim: "I've heard that before!" We now have a monthly celebration of Staff Birthdays as well as remembering the anniversaries of their first day of service. On the first day of Spring we had a joint community-staff in-service featuring another chapter in our ongoing formation about dealing with

Alzheimer's. Some in the community and on the staff were struck down by some virus, but most have come back as good as new. The same is true for my computer, thanks to the Saturday team of "John and Juan" who keep our computers in good running condition. When Brother Jim Christiana remarked that he believed that he was covered by a warranty, I responded "You or the computer?" In collaboration with the Staff at Martha's Kitchen, Brother Tom Redmond and Father Ted Ley set up a Memorial Mass for Brother Joseph Nu'uanu. I was assigned to lead a special Lenten Holy Hour. All went smoothly until I was about to bless the community with the Blessed Sacrament. To facilitate the service, Brother Stanley had prepared a laminated card for the presider. But when I picked it up to say the prayer before the blessing I discovered it was the laminated list of telephone numbers! There was a pause as both Brother Stanley and I struggled to be serious. The next day Brother Tom Deasy was the homilist, and as he often does, spoke about the Saint of the Day. This time it was Saint Finian who was a legendary ascetic – rising during the night to sit in a tub of cold water while reciting the psalms. At breakfast Brother Stanley asked if I did that with the Community Telephone Directory!

While awaiting some serious rain, we are enjoying the remarkable signs of new life as Spring has officially arrived. The Rancho San Antonio Park nearby is splendidly adorned in fifty shades of green. The Gate of Heaven cemetery alongside is well kept and is home for many beautiful geese. On my weekend neighborhood walks it seems that I am the only one not accompanying a dog or two. Interestingly, horses are allowed in the park, but dogs must stay outside and the geese prefer the cemetery! It is our custom for the prayer leader to announce morning and evening prayer with a gentle invitation "to conclude our personal prayer" but one day all of us were brought to attention by a loud cell phone which alerted the prayer leader to begin! He claimed it was a real call, not an alarm reminder! My next report will be during the Easter Season, so I want to send Easter Greetings now along with my thanks for your interest and support.

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