

## CUPERTINO MARIANIST COMMUNITY

OCTOBER, 2013

“Thirty days hath September...” And they went quickly!

September, 2013 will long be remembered by many of us as Father Joseph Stefanelli month. Slowly but surely he regained strength and is now able to join the community for morning mass and all the meals. During the time that Father Joe was in the hospital Brother Tom Redmond gave us regular updates and when both he and Brother Stanley Murakami were absent, Father Ray Malley, as Acting Director, continued the updates. Father Joe has now moved into the room next to Father Larry Mann, his teacher when he was a student at Purcell High School in Cincinnati. Those two are often together at table in the dining room, along with our third 90 year old, Brother Frank Spaeth.

Brother Tom Redmond attended the meetings of the Province Retreat Commission and the Spiritual Renewal Committee. Brother Stanley Murakami joined his sister and their 99 year old mother for an exciting visit in Las Vegas. There were other absences, of course, but these are among the most noteworthy!

We celebrated our patronal feast, the Holy Name of Mary, in union with the Marianist Family throughout the world. It was the 70<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee anniversary of first profession for 24 of our fellow brothers - the largest group of jubilarians for a particular day this year.

Brother Howard Hughes was honored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians for “providing melodies that lift up the voice of assemblies in praise and prayer.” Locally, the Knights of Columbus presented the first Father Mark Catalana Memorial Award to Bro. John Samaha. “The award honors his unwavering faith and devotion to the Church, and his guidance, humor, and instruction.”

We had several lively birthday celebrations during the month: Brother Jim Leahy on Labor Day. That afternoon a limousine came from San Francisco to pick up community members who had signed up to attend the ARHS Drama Department Fundraiser. September 7 was Brother Bill Bolts’ birthday which coincided with the annual Alcalde Road Block Party. Moreover, because the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary is ordinarily celebrated on September 8, which this year fell on a Sunday, we celebrated Mary’s birthday along with Brother Bill’s actual birthday. We were also united in spirit that day with the call for prayer for peace initiated by Pope Francis.

On September 5 we celebrated the feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles. For us it is a feast celebrated in memory of the first public profession of vows made by the seven initial members of the Society of Mary on September 5, 1818. This is considered to be the moment of the Society's solemn foundation. The traditional Foundation Day is October 2.

Each week Ms. Mary Worn conducts a Wellness Exercise at the Cabana by the swimming pool, but there is a break in the schedule as she recovers from a recent bike accident. Other members of our staff were also on sick leave, but schedules were rearranged smoothly, thanks to the willingness of other members of the staff to adjust. In the midst of all this, Ms. Mary Ellen Garcia, Province Director of Human Resources, came to meet with our employees. I always find her visits refreshing and the staff finds her guidance reassuring.

Brother Bill Bolts demonstrates how one Marianist, no longer in administration or teaching, can have a great impact on a Marianist sponsored school. We are all encouraged by his work to keep the Marianist charism thriving at Archbishop Riordan High School. Brother Bill also keeps us informed of special events at Riordan, for example, the participation of the Riordan Crusader Marching Band in San Francisco's tribute to America's Cup Race.

Closer to home, Brother Bill Bolts is facilitating a session of Series on American Catholics at the St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish Community Center. Meanwhile, besides his personal outreach, Brother John Samaha continues to publish articles of interest. His apostolate of the press is remarkable. His excellent article, "The Vocation of the Brother" made its latest appearance in a magazine published in Limuru, Kenya.

Each year on September 18 the Solemnity of Saint Joseph of Cupertino takes precedence over the celebration of our Marianist Martyrs, so we transfer the community celebration of Blesseds Carlos, Fuido and Jesus to September 19. But on the 18<sup>th</sup> several members of our community participated in the Mass at Riordan honoring the Marianist Martyrs. Archbishop Cordileone presided.

On Friday, September 20, feast of St. Andrew Kim & Companions, there was a Staff Birthday Celebration in the Fireplace Room.

Once again Dr. David Lewis came to the Marianist Center to give flu shots as we move into autumn. Interestingly, we had a surprise heavy rain shower on the last day of summer! Father Ray Malley noted that it had also rained on the first day of summer.

On Sunday, September 22, first day of autumn, there was a Feast Day Mass at St. Joseph Cupertino Parish followed by a Barbeque Luncheon. Brother Tom Redmond and Brother David Betz faithfully represented the community. That afternoon several of us attended the Bishop's Annual Open House for Religious at the Bishop's Residence.

Towards the end of the month we celebrated Father Ray Malley's birthday followed two days later by the annual Medical Profession Appreciation Luncheon which this year had a Hawaiian theme in both food and entertainment.

Other notes: Brother Tom Redmond and Brother David Betz attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass at Archbishop Mitty High School. Among guests, we welcomed Father Leo Muller, the Marianist Superior in Switzerland. Father Leo has a brother in California and always makes it a point to drive down to Cupertino when visiting his brother. He brought wine from the family winery in California and the makings for fondue from Switzerland. For every birthday the staff prepares photos with appropriate photos and comments. Meanwhile Brother Jim Leahy is always ready and willing to show some of his thousands of photos on computer. One of the most remarkable is the photo taken within the car on the way to Oakland. You are in the scene as the car races ahead. Brother Frank Spaeth and Brother Tom Deasy decided not to set up a sidewalk sale this year. In addition to all his other activities, Brother Frank devotes time to making excellent rosaries, many of them using "Job's Tears" grown in our garden.

September was a beautiful month, but still dry – or, if you wish, golden. As you know, at midnight, marking the first day of October, the federal government shut down after Congress could not compromise on a funding bill. A few hours later I looked out at a clear, starlit sky. More about the rest of October in my next update! **ST**