

## **Father Francis Tasuku Nakagawa - Eulogy - 13 April 2018 - Honolulu, Hawaii**

Before I begin, let me suggest that you search YouTube for my name, Jack Somerville. Scroll down. When you see my picture you will find only one uploaded video of Fr. Francis shouting banzai on his last birthday. Banzai, may you live a long life.

[Here is the link to that video.](#)

The only other eulogy I have presented was for a fellow brother with whom I worked side by side, hand in hand for 30 years. I knew him well; very well. I have known Fr. Francis Nakagawa for 10 months. Some of the brothers in our house called him Frank. I just could not address him that way. For me, out of respect, I called him Father Francis.

In your programs you will find some facts and dates concerning Father. He lived a full and rich life. In developing this eulogy I decided to ask the brothers and the staff with whom Father lived and who cared for him in order to help me describe his life. Much of what you will hear comes from them.

Fr. Francis was a kind, gentle, intelligent and quiet person. He didn't say much. He sometimes found it difficult to initiate a conversation; he was very generous, very considerate. One brother remarked that when he visited Japan, Francis' sense of hospitality was wonderful. Francis was a great tour guide.

I can attest to Father's love for photography. I went thru the hundreds of his digital photos. His favorite subjects were flowers, trees, food and family! Speaking of food; his love for sushi and Ramen noodles was evident.

Father was a lover of nature, especially in spring time. In Cupertino, he liked to walk among the flower gardens and visit the fish pond each day. His love for Sakura cherry blossoms is unmistakable in his photos. Francis was a dedicated religious, he was comfortable being alone; I suspect that he had a deep prayer life in moments of silence and solitude.

Francis was particular about his appearance. He was always neatly dressed and hair combed properly. One brother referred to Francis as dignified! One staff member remarked that Father was a cheerful person, helpful and even taught the staff some Japanese!

Fr. Francis' ministry sometimes called him to live outside of Marianist Community. One brother remarked that when Father moved back into community it was as if he never left. His Marianist vocation was his inspiration and motivation.

One thing for sure, Francis was very devoted to the Japanese Catholic Club here in Honolulu. In Father's file he had all the members' addresses and phone numbers. I counted 27 different addresses. I personally read to Father a number of letters sent to him from the members of this community and it is a testament to Fr. Francis that their activities continue to this day.

Another brother remarked that Francis was fun as well as serious about life, a good worker, excellent student, a tailor, a typist. He played violin. Fr. Francis was very proud of his birthplace of Wailuku on the island of Maui. We thank Fr. Francis for his life and presence among us. We will miss his gentle smile and gentle character. Thank you Father for gracing our life.