

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO

No. 12 – AUGUST 2007

I wrote the first draft of this report on July 30 on my way to Hawaii for the funeral of Brother Clarence Chew. I had time to write leisurely because my flight out of San Jose was delayed and once in flight we battled headwinds over the Pacific. But I arrived safe and sound and began a whirlwind visit – but more about that in my next letter.

In this letter I want to recall some of the midsummer highlights of life at the Cupertino Marianist Center following 07-07-2007! The transition from Villa Saint Joseph to the Marianist Center has been remarkably smooth. Lawns, flowers, shrubbery and fountains are all in place and provide a beautiful and peaceful environment. Work on finishing touches continues, some unexpectedly called for by the City of Cupertino inspectors who never seem to be completely satisfied.

The latest surprise was the requirement that the walkways through the rose garden be made handicap accessible. Brother John Haster handles all this calmly and efficiently but I think he is eager to get to work in the vegetable garden which as of now is producing only giant sunflowers! On July 9 at a community Memorial Service we showed the video from the Province Assembly featuring photos and sketches of the Marianists who died since the beginning of the Province. Our celebration of the feast of Saint Benedict, our Patriarch, on July 11 included a footnote: It marked the finalization of the sale of the former Provincialate and Villa Saint Joseph to the Legionaries of Christ. They plan to retain much of the work of the Brothers who worked so devotedly and competently on these buildings over many years.

Father Jack Rielly and I quietly celebrated the 54th anniversary of our ordination on July 12. Others in our community who were ordained in Fribourg also had July anniversaries. Another personal anniversary was July 16, Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. On that day in 1944 Brother Wilfred Hartke drowned at Saint Meinrad's

seminary in Indiana. Brother Wilfred worked with me in my discernment to enter the Society of Mary when he was teaching at Hamilton Catholic. He continued to encourage me while he was studying for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad where our USA Marianist seminary was based at the time.

We celebrated Father James Imhof's birthday and welcomed Father Tim Kenney who joined us for a few days of rest following the death and burial of his mother. Other guests included Father Tim Eden, Brother Pat McMahon, Brother Jimmie Masuura, Sister Rosalie Pizzo, SND. Father John McEnhill, Father Dave Schuyler and I participated in the LIFE Reconciliation Service held at Mission Springs near Santa Cruz.

Brother Bill McCall was hospitalized briefly and now seems to be getting around well. The three "shut-ins" (Brother Charles Boglitz, Father Tom Hogan and Brother Joe Wasy) are stable and cheerful. Just before I left for Hawaii Brother Joe Wasy wanted me to give greetings. He also remembered Brother Jimmie Masuura from the years they worked together in Japan. Brother Jimmie Masuura, originally Jim Masur from Pittsburgh, was on his way back to Tokyo to begin a 55th year in Japan. He and Father John Bolin and I – and several others – entered the Society of Mary in 1944. I eagerly showed Brother Jimmie some of the history and beauty of California including a visit to the Mission in Carmel, the giant redwoods in Big Basin Park, and a prayerful visit to Gate of Heaven cemetery where we have the graves of the Marianists who served the Church in California since 1883.

Brother John Samaha gave him a memorable tour of San Francisco. And we walked in the Rancho San Antonio park where he was warmly greeted as he tipped his hat every time we met a woman hiker on the trail. Perhaps his long flowing beard, shorts, high socks and vigorous pace helped to attract attention. He also visited an old friend at the Maryknoll Retirement Center nearby. Before leaving town Brother Jimmie gave us an update on the Society of Mary in Japan where Marianists have served since 1887.

In the midst of his various activities including his care and concern for his three sisters, Brother John Samaha continues to dedicate

himself to the important ministry of writing for publication. A footnote to the Feast of Our Lady of Refuge that I mentioned in my last letter is that my friend Msgr. Gene Boyle told me that when he went on the internet to find more information about this feast, the first reference was to an article written by Brother John Samaha! When my cousin Sally Timmerman died last January, it was decided that we would have a family gathering later in Sonora.

The weekend of July 13 was selected and I joined the lively group on Sunday as we celebrated her memory. I learned two things about the weather last month. For the first time in recorded history we had rain in Cupertino on July 18. It was brief and slight, but it was real rain. The second thing I learned is that there is such a thing as virga. This is real rain, too, but it evaporates before it reaches the ground because of hot and dry conditions.

In our morning mass at the time of the general intercessions we have an inspiring routine. First Brother Charles Ehrenfeld invites us to pray for a special intention – he has one for each day of the week. Then Brother Elmer Dunsky invites us to pray for our families and friends. One regular intention is for our benefactors, with special mention of those who support the Marianist Mission. We pray often for our sick, of course, and my personal prayer in that regard is “for peace in the midst of pain and anxiety.” I hope you are enjoying a peaceful summer when you read this report which completes a first year of notes about life in Cupertino – and beyond.

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