

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO

No. 4 – DECEMBER 2006

Throughout November we remembered the Faithful Departed. Beginning with the feast of All Saints on November 1, we had placed names of departed relatives and friends on the altar for a daily remembrance at our community Mass. On All Souls Day, November 2, we had the opportunity to participate in three Masses. My place in chapel at Villa Saint Joseph looks out on the wall where photos of the “Faithful Sons of Chaminade” (35 Marianists who died at Villa Saint Joseph) are displayed. And because it is our custom to read the complete necrology at Mass we remembered fellow Marianists who died in other parts of the world as well.

November 1 was also the official opening of the rainy season in this part of the world. Although the month was relatively dry, there were days when the construction site of our future home was quite muddy. Although Northern California is not quite like New England, trees dressed in red and orange and yellow still had most of their brightly colored leaves as November came to a close. At the same time it also became cooler, and on one of the last days of the month the headline in the San Jose Mercury News was: “It’s Balmier in Buffalo!”

Towards the end of November Brother Charles Boglitz was taken to the hospital. The good news is that this made it possible for Father Jack Rielly to move down from the San Juan Residence into Brother Charles’ room at Villa Saint Joseph. But when Brother Charles heard about this he recovered quickly and returned to reclaim his room. Fortunately, that was the day when Brother Gene Frank left for a Thanksgiving Day visit with his family in Northern California, so Father Jack was promptly transferred into his room. By the time Brother Gene returned, Father Jack was able to return to the San Juan Residence where he continued his steady recovery. In fact, he has been quite active: enjoying a Thanksgiving Day family get-together in San Francisco and Oakland, celebrating a parish Mass at nearby Saint Joseph of Cupertino and also concelebrating with the Bishop for a Mass honoring the various lay groups in the Diocese of San Jose. Moreover as a Faithful Friar he attends all local events of the Knights of Columbus.

For routine travel, however, I continue to serve as his personal chauffeur. It is with great delight that he helps me wiggle out of the cramped parking lot at the Villa. But if Mrs. Ruby Arteaga is around she whisks us backwards down the curved driveway at breakneck speed. Meanwhile I used the car assigned to Father Jack for other trips as well. I feel well protected: he has a shrine of little statues and medals below the dash board to help assure safe travel. One of my principal visits is to a retirement home nearby where my cousin Mrs. Sally Timmerman is in a weakened condition but peaceful and still alert at 98. Her only concern was whether I had a good cook! So I told her about Jesus (Jesse) Rosario, our master chef, and the others who take turns keeping us very well nourished and cared for. Our dining room is a welcoming gathering place. Father Larry Mann is a master at one-liners and clever crooning. When we have Mexican food he is heard singing: "How are things in Guacamole" surprising the Irish among us.

We remembered Brother Charles Boglitz and Brother Charles Ehrenfeld on their patronal feast, November 4. Brother Robert Wade claims Saint Martin of Tours as his patron, so we remembered him and other veterans on November 11. On November 15 we celebrated Brother Joseph Wasy's 88th birthday, followed by Father Joseph Stefanelli's 85th birthday on the 24th. We also remembered Mrs. Grace Pancipanci's birthday on the 25th, but she has many years to go before catching up with our Senior Marianists! Thanksgiving Day has always been a special holiday at Villa Saint Joseph. This year we began with a late morning Mass followed by the traditional dinner.

I attended the Memorial Mass for Mrs. Monica Neary in Saint Agnes Church in San Francisco on November 18. Her son, Father Mark Neary presided; Bishop P.J. McGrath added a note about his personal remembrance of Mrs Neary dating from the time he had been in residence at Saint Agnes. I had visited Mrs. Neary shortly before her death; we had kept in touch with each other over many years. She and her son Michael had been guests at the General Administration residence in Rome and were fondly remembered by the Via Latina 22 Community and Staff at that time.

Tireless Brother Tom Suda took a few days off from his intensive work at the construction site to overcome some pesky intestinal attack. He made a magnificent Advent Wreath stand for us; Brother Jim Roberts and Mrs. Carline Hines found the wreath and candles. Brother Tom and our maintenance man Mr. Steve Weiner make a very effective team. Brother John Haster energetically

continues to oversee the construction site. He also attended a meeting of the Directors of the California Marianist communities called by Father Dave Schuyler, the newly appointed Area Coordinator. In mid-November Father John McEnhill attended the Province Reflection Group in Charlotte, North Carolina. Brother Stanley Murakami went to Las Vegas to visit with his mother and sister who flew in from Maui. It was a welcome break for Brother Stanley who does so many things so quietly and efficiently for us. Brother Paul Fennelly took over in his absence and continues to be the principal chauffeur in the community.

Recent luncheon visitors included Mr. Richard Brown who brought a copy of his latest book: "When Ministry is Messy!" Our longtime friends from Honolulu, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ng, also drove down to Cupertino. At the end of the month Father John McEnhill had a second cataract surgery. I missed a meeting of the Province Social Justice Committee in Milwaukee, but I did present a report to our community on the recent Provincial Chapter. Father James Imhof led us in a Holy Hour for the first Friday of December. Father Bert Buby came in from Dayton to direct an Advent retreat December 2 and 3 and had some days before and after to enjoy the bright sunshine and mild temperatures. Sister Doris Rauenhorst, OP made a retreat with us at the same time and welcomed her return to Cupertino where she had made many annual retreats in the past. The Marianists at the Alcalde House and Bordeaux House had a pre-Advent party to decorate a colossal Christmas Tree with several hundred ornaments. On the last day of November Brother Joseph Nu'uau went to Honolulu for the funeral of his sister's husband. On the same day Brother John Haster went to Tucson for another meeting in preparation for the Province Assembly in June.

May this Advent Season be a time of great peace and may your celebration of Christmas be the best ever. Be assured I am with you in spirit as we close out 2006, looking back with gratitude, and begin 2007, looking forward with hope!
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