

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO

No. 11 – JULY – 2007

I am making the final draft of this letter on 07-07-07! June was a month of settling in to our new home even while workers put finishing touches on the Marianist Center. Some of these were simply left over projects, others were new touches demanded by the fire department. I think we now have more exit signs and fire extinguishers than people! The first feast in June that we celebrated in a special way was that of the Most Holy Trinity. Two days later I made a quick trip to Ohio for a family mass and burial. It was really a farewell for the 95 year old patriarch of the William Boyd family. One of my treasured photos is of Bill and his wife Mary Helen and their five children at my first mass in Hamilton. I saw many old friends during my whirlwind visit, especially folks from "Second Ward" and Saint Joseph's Parish where I grew up.

I returned to California in time to attend Bishop P.J. McGrath's luncheon honoring the first Bishop of San Jose, Pierre DuMaine, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination. The next day we had our West Coast Marianist jubilee celebration. Brother Joseph Wasy, who made his first vows 70 years ago, surprised us all by attending the Mass. Another of his group, Father Thomas Hogan was unable to come to chapel, but was with us in spirit. Father John McEnhill, who made his first profession 60 years ago, was present along with many of his relatives and friends. And one of our Golden Jubilarians, Brother Jose Degorio, came from Hawaii to be with us. Notable among friends attending the Mass and Dinner was Msgr. Gene Boyle. A few days before the jubilee, when I asked Brother Joe Wasy whether he was ready for the celebration, he reflected a few moments and then said: "I don't know how to answer that!" I always find him alert and welcoming at breakfast time. The staff does a great job with him. One day, with a twinkle in his eye, he told me "I was supposed to have died last night!"

Those of us with connections with Saint Anthony Schools and Parish on Maui took special notice of the feast of Saint Anthony. Just by chance four of us, Brother Charles Ehrenfeld, Brother Stanley Murakami, Father Jack Rielly and I were together for breakfast. Brother Charles keeps in contact with his friends on the Valley Isle and Brother Stanley checks the Maui News every morning by internet. I attended Bishop McGrath's luncheon for the retired priests of the diocese, most of whom were quite active in the years when I worked in the diocesan office. On July 16 Bishop McGrath came to the Marianist Center to bless the community and our new home and enjoy a relaxed evening with us. The next day we celebrated Father's Day followed the next day by Father John McEnhill's 80th Birthday Party. On the 21st we also anticipated Brother Howard Hughes' birthday since several of us would be absent for the actual birthday on the 28th. We also noted the passing of Brother Fukuichi Matias Satowaki who outlived his rival Brother Leo Rausch by several years, finally passing away on May 28 in his 106th year!

On Sunday June 24th we celebrated the great feast of Saint John the Baptist and the next day nine of us (Father John Bolin, Brother Tom Deasy, Brother John Haster, Brother Stanley Murakami, Brother Joseph Nuuanu, Brother John Schlund, Father Dave Schuyler, Brother Vince Wayer and I) were in Tucson for the Province Assembly which proved to be an inspiring experience of finding life in the desert. Those who access FamilyOnline and other Marianist web sites will find photos and comments about our week of *Becoming Brothers, Finding Life*.

On July 5 several of us shared reflections about the assembly with members of our community who were unable to attend. Brother John Haster was a member of the Committee that worked the past two-and-a-half years to prepare for this great gathering. Immediately prior to the assembly we had several guests including Brother James Dods, Father Tim Eden, Brother Bill Farrell (the first director of the Marianist Center) and Father Paul Fitzpatrick. Brother Charles Ehrenfeld has mapped out his own personal tour of the property which includes a shady rest area. He has also ventured beyond the Center to check out some of the improvements made in the neighborhood since the days when he used to walk down the hill from Villa Saint Joseph. When Father Larry Mann presides at mass he invites Father Jack Rielly to proclaim the gospel, which Father Jack does with great solemnity. Father Jack Rielly has become more bold in walking short distances without his walker – and he has written a personal letter to the Marianist affiliates in the former Province of the Pacific. Father Larry continues to amaze us by his grasp of current ecclesial events. I think he was the first in our house to have read Pope Benedict's latest book *Jesus of Nazareth*.

Brother Howard Hughes is faithfully and patiently guiding our singing. Brother Bob Wade is an admirer and disciple. He was especially appreciative when we sang the Star Spangled Banner on Independence Day but denies that Brother Howard stayed here during the assembly to help him perfect his singing!

Brother John Samaha has been using his time to continue writing and publishing. One of his latest articles was an intriguing piece about Saint Paul demonstrating the value of letter writing, concluding his reflection with these words: "Writing a personal letter is a wonderful and warm expression of thoughtfulness and courtesy and appreciation." And the best news is that Brother John does this! Brother John also introduced our eucharist on July 5 by sharing with us his historical sketch on the Feast of Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners, Original Patroness of the Californas.

Those confined to their rooms can follow the mass via closed circuit TV. Father Thomas Hogan was surprised to see Father Larry Mann wearing a cap – but it was actually his Fourth of July burgundy colored hair! Father Jack Rielly had the brightest green hair; Brother Joseph Nuuanu had a two-tone job. Some of us had no hair to color, and others were careful to stay away from Grace and her paint brushes on Independence Day! Father Larry Mann and Brother Gene Frank have taken advantage of the pool which they appreciated very much during a recent heat wave. Brother Charles Boglitz continues to tell us that he is not long for this world, but recently expressed a desire to see what I would be like in my 90th year (as he is) so that means he is thinking about living to be a hundred! Father Bill Christensen gave us a stimulating report on his work

of empowering the rural poor in Bangladesh. Our chapel is a fine place of worship and it is there above all that we remember you in prayer. Thank you for your interest and support.

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