

GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO

No. 6 – FEBRUARY 2007

Comings and Goings: Brother Stanley Murakami made his usual January visit with his mother and sister in Wailuku; Brother John Schlund returned from his visit in Saint Louis; Father Jim Imhof went to Mexico to help out in our Marianist communities there; Brother Bill Bolts moved into the San Juan Residence while continuing to work at Queen of Apostles' Parish; Father Dave Schuyler went to Phoenix for the meeting of the Corporate Reflection Group, then attended various meetings in Hawaii and California.

Meanwhile, Brother Paul Fennelly was permitted to drive, but his feet ailment prevented long distance trips. He has resumed his role as Father John Bolin's designated driver and thoughtfully warms up the car on frosty mornings before driving down to the Bordeaux House. Brother Gene Frank took over many of the driving assignments, including taking Father Jack Rielly as needed. Father Bill O'Connell is another of his patrons as he goes to physical therapy regularly. Brother Gene also solves our computer problems day after day! And Brother John Samaha is always dependable as a backup chauffeur.

We celebrated Brother Tom Deasy's birthday on the 7th. On the 31st we celebrated both Brother Bob Wade's 80th and the birthday of Mr. Steve Weiner, our chief maintenance man. We also had a social welcoming Brother Bill Bolts to our community. The January feasts of the Motherhood of Mary, Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord closed out our Christmas festivities for the year. On those special days as well as on Sundays all of us came together to celebrate Eucharist in the dining room of the Villa. On one of those Sundays Father Tim Kenney was our guest presider and we visited with him and his mother and niece before he went to San Francisco to accept the Chaminade Day award presented by Archbishop Riordan High School.

Work on the remodeling of the Marianist Center continues vigorously. Weather has been ideal for the workers. On one day, Brother John Haster noted 50 workers were engaged on the project, somehow without getting in each other's way. Brother Tom Suda continues to amaze all of us by his industry and creativity. Brother Jim Roberts oversees the esthetics of the project.

Brother Stanley Murakami set up a community meeting to go through the logistics of moving from the Villa to the Center. Brother Richard Dix was in town for a check on the construction and was able to be with us for our community celebration of Chaminade Day at which several other Marianists from the Bay Area joined us. We had our usual Chaminade Novena at the beginning of the month and also a second in preparation for the feast.

The death of Sister Rosemarie Eggleston, FMI, in San Antonio had great meaning for us because she was the first Marianist Sister who worked with us in California, helping out at our first Health Center in Santa Cruz. She was greatly devoted to the Marianists – “her brothers” – and our veterans spoke fondly of her.

Father Larry Mann continues to build on his reputation for one-liners. When we complimented Brother Bill McCall on his attractive shirt, he beamed and told us, yes, it is artistic and “was worn by a handsome man!” At which point Father Larry jumped in with “Who wore it before you?” leaving Brother Bill momentarily speechless. Father Tom Hogan had a fall which put him out of circulation for a few days, but he is resilient. Meanwhile there is no change in Brother Charles Boglitz’ condition. As long as he can say, “I feel miserable” we know he is doing well! Moreover he and Brother John Samaha put order in the Villa library recently. A virus ran through the community and just when I thought I had survived I was laid low for a few days, preventing me from attending Bishop Richard Garcia’s installation as the Bishop of Monterey. Father Dave Schuyler represented our community and joined the Marianists of Santa Cruz at the celebration.

Our dean, Brother Charles Ehrenfeld, claims he has never been bothered by a virus the past seven years because he refuses to shake hands! Brother Tom Deasy presents matinees of old favorites and special requests regularly and is the first to sign up for the Wednesday luncheon outings. Brother Tom also faithfully checks on the Cupertino City Council via TV and keeps us well informed.

Meanwhile what we want to keep from the San Juan Residence is being removed for storage. Among the saved valuables are the historic chandelier in the chapel and statues outside the residence. Brother John Haster

discovered a craftsman who is outstanding in restoring statues so they look almost like new. The chapel is still functional, however, and on the 27th I celebrated a Memorial Mass here for Mrs. Sally C. Timmerman who died peacefully in her 99th year. Her younger sister, Mrs. Genevieve Sakotnik, who is only 95, is in failing health in Illinois. For those wondering about “these distant relatives but close friends” the mother of Sally and Gen was a cousin to my grandfather.

We have now consolidated our four Cupertino addresses into the one given above. For those who receive the Marianist newsletter *FamilyOnline*, you may have noted a picture of the giant mailbox installed at the Marianist Center by Brother Tom Suda. Our in house mailman, Brother Barney Foster, conscientiously distributes the mail. Father Roland Bunda appeared towards the end of the month, fresh from the Renewal Program in Italy and a visit with the Marianists in the Philippines.

Three of our Senior Marianists are involved in Province affairs. Father John Bolin serves on the committee *Aging with Grace*, Father Dave Schuyler is the California Area Coordinator and I have been appointed as one of three Advisors to the new Provincial Council which will take over after the Province Assembly in June. I also continue to serve on the Province Committee for Social Justice and Brother John Haster is very active as a member of the committee preparing the Assembly.

As we look forward to February we recognize that Ash Wednesday is just a few days away; be assured I am with you in thought and prayer now and especially during what the Church calls “the Holy Season.”

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