

## **GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO – APRIL 2008**

### **Easter Season Greetings from Cupertino!**

We have just completed an inspiring Holy Week – our first in the new Center. Father Dave Schuyler scheduled the services; Brother Stanley Murakami faithfully served as sacristan and master of ceremonies – even successfully introducing incense without setting off the sensitive smoke and fire alarms in chapel; Brother Howard Hughes guided us through the liturgies with great skill and enthusiasm. His refrain throughout the week was an ever encouraging “You’ll do fine!” often after introducing an unfamiliar melody. The splendid floral decorations for chapel and dining room were created by Brother Joseph Nuuanu and Mrs. Nancy Romano. Meanwhile, Mrs. Grace Pancipanci and her staff continued the great tradition of brightening our home with Easter eggs and balloons and glorious table settings. Mr. Jesse Rosario and his associates prepared hearty and healthy meals, especially for Holy Thursday, Easter Sunday and birthdays.

When I returned to Cupertino on March 12 I found wonderful signs of Brother Tom Suda’s craftsmanship. The main project was the Saint Anthony Greenhouse, the realization of Brother Jim Roberts’ dream of remembering the great gardener, Brother Anthony Young. Brother Tom also repaired the Alcalde Gate. And I discovered directly in front of me in chapel a magnificent lectern that Brother Tom had created for us, with thanks to the donors, the Mr. Wilfred Fatooh family. Brother Tom also set up the base for a beautiful statue of Saint Francis of Assisi in the rose garden, a gift from Father John McEnhill’s family in memory of his 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee as a Marianist.

Special chairs enable Brother Bill McCall and Brother Pat McMahan to attend services in the chapel and join the community in the dining room. Brother Charles Boglitz, Father Tom Hogan and Brother Joe Wasy remain in their rooms. Father Jim Imhof faithfully ministers to the shut-ins. We now have special nurses to care for Brother Charles. Work continues to make the closed circuit TV in chapel more user friendly. Early in Lent, Father Jack Rielly organized a retreat day for affiliates in the area. He has

80 addresses on his mailing list from the former Province of the Pacific. On March 8, Mrs. Sue Wesselkamper, president of Chaminade University, accompanied by the new dean of natural sciences and math, Mrs. Helen Turner, gave the community a welcome update on Chaminade University. That night the community sprang forward an hour for Daylight Savings Time. And the next week Mrs. Nancy Romano was away on jury duty. I missed the anointing of the sick on March 6 and the visit of the Legionnaires of Christ for evening prayer and dinner the day before. Somewhere in all this a new automatic coffee-tea-cocoa machine arrived.

There were signs of spring everywhere ... blossoming trees ... colorful spring flowers ... warmer days ... and while walking in the Rancho San Antonio park on Holy Thursday I saw my first snake of the season. It was tiny and swift and I am wondering whether I will recognize it again later in the summer! Meanwhile, Brother Howard Hughes talks (or sings) to the hummingbirds who seem to be as numerous as the big black crows these days. He claims one was captivated by his melody and hovered a long time over his head.

Just before Holy Week we celebrated the feast of Saint Joseph. On March 17 I gave a report of the meeting of the Provincial Council and we then had a non-liturgical celebration of Saint Patrick's Day. When Brother James Wisecaver brought Brother Urban Naal back for more surgery he gave us an update on the vocation activity at West Hills as a follow up to the Anaheim Catechetical Conference where the Marianist booth was again a big success in attracting attention. You may have seen our own Father John McEnhill in photos taken at this great event.

We celebrated Brother Stanley's birthday on March 24 and the next day we had a double birthday, that of Father Tom Hogan and Brother Urban Naal. Just before morning prayer something triggered the fire alarm. The alarm was so loud that most of us went outside until Father Joe Stefanelli was able to reach the control center to turn off the alarm – but not before the fire department had already responded despite Brother John Haster claiming all was normal. No one knows why the alarm went off, but there was quiet satisfaction that it worked so well and that the fire department responded

so promptly. One thing we know is that it was not Brother Urban smoking in his room. (He has real contempt for smoke of any kind, even in chapel!) After Mass Grace took Brother Urban to the hospital for surgery. He was scheduled to return the next day and hopes to return to West Hills soon.

To help oversee the ongoing operation of the Center and the community, Brother John Haster has set up a Health Committee as well as a Director's Council to help us be one community while living in three residences: the Center, the Alcalde House and the Bordeaux House. Brother Gene Frank keeps track of activities here and throughout the Marianist world on his blog.

I am writing this report as I prepare to return to Saint Louis for the meeting of the Aging with Grace committee and the meeting of the Provincial Council.

Whether in Cupertino or away, be assured I am with you in spirit, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist which transcends time and space.

May the Easter Season be a time of fresh enthusiasm!

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