

**Cupertino Marianist Community**  
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## **GREETINGS FROM CUPERTINO – FEBRUARY 2008**

I began the New Year in Cupertino but on Jan. 13 I went to Saint Louis for the meeting of the Provincial Council and from there to San Antonio. In this report I will tell you what I remember about the first 13 days of the New Year in Cupertino and what I heard about the rest of the month when I returned on Jan. 31 in time to join the community in celebrating Brother Bob Wade's birthday – we are six weeks apart in age. I will also add a note about my visit in San Antonio.

For Brother Tom Deasy's birthday on the feast of Epiphany the theme was a movie box office attraction in recognition for his service in finding and showing movies twice weekly. For Brother Bob, "Kilroy was here" posters appeared throughout the house. It was also Mr. Steve Weiner's birthday, but he was celebrating life by skiing over the fresh snow in the mountains around us. Our community joined our Marianist sisters in spirit on Jan. 10 to celebrate the anniversary of their foundress, Venerable Adele. Later in the month I was the guest of the Marianist Sisters in San Antonio for Mass and dinner.

Here the community celebrated Chaminade Day with many guests. On Jan. 20 Father Jack Rielly organized a one day retreat in honor of the founders for a group of 18 affiliates. Brother John Samaha and Father Joe Stefanelli joined him in giving presentations to the group. Thanks to Brother Charles Johnson we now have a set of icons of our Spanish martyrs created by Sister Durie Kim to add to the icons she had made previously of Blessed Jakob Gapp and Blessed Carlos, Fidel and Jesus. We now have a series of in-service programs. The latest was on "Earthquake and Fire Safety" the next will be on "Stress Management" – if you are in the area, join us!

On January 12 we hosted the first meeting of the Aging with Grace committee chaired by Brother Les Kaehler. Father Tim Dwyer came with him from San Antonio; Brothers Bob Dzubinski and Dave Murphy came from Dayton; Brother Joe Markel came from the Provincial Office; Father John Bolin and I are the other

members of the committee. We worked through a challenging agenda smoothly and set up a number of projects to work on in the coming months. We recognize this committee has an important responsibility to help provide resources and motivation for senior Marianists to “age with grace.” We concluded the Christmas Season with the celebration of the Baptism on the 13<sup>th</sup> but most of the decorations had already disappeared by that time – especially those outside as the winds threatened to throw things “into the next zip code!” Meanwhile, the physical therapy room now has a new treadmill. Throughout the month we welcomed many guests, including the regulars, Brother Dave Betz from Santa Cruz and Father Tom French from San Francisco. Other visitors I saw before leaving included Father Ted Ley and Brother Roberto Rivera. Father Jim Imhof also returned after visiting family in Alabama.

While I was in San Antonio, Cupertino was blessed with abundant rain which nourished fresh grass on the hills and filled the dry river bed in the Rancho San Antonio park with a gushing stream. Meanwhile, plaques and signs have been neatly displayed throughout the property identifying various landmarks. Our chapel is now called the Chapel of Marianist Martyrs.

After many weeks in El Camino hospital, Brother Pat McMahan returned home on the first day of February. He has been admirably patient during the long ordeal and he continues to battle pain but is obviously pleased to be back home – with his open door policy – welcoming all who might be passing by. I know he would want me to thank all those who have been praying for his peace all this time – and invite your continued prayerful support.

As I look back on January I remember Father Larry Mann beginning his reflection on the gospel by telling the story of the little girl who was drawing a picture of God only to be told that no one knew what God looked like – to which she responded “they will when I’m finished!” While Brother Stanley Murakami was visiting his mother and sister on Maui, his many tasks were assumed by Brother Paul Fennelly, Father John McEnhill and Father Joe Stefanelli. Later, thanks to Brother Skip Matthews, Brother Paul visited the community and school in West Hills. I had seen Brother Tom Suda in San Antonio – and when I returned I found him hard at work here, continuing projects he had in mind a few months ago, first the construction of the Greenhouse in memory of the life and work of Brother Anthony Young.

Upon my return to Cupertino I tried to share a few of the wonderful things I experienced visiting the Marianist Residence on the 132 acre campus of Saint Mary's University in San Antonio. It is the largest Marianist community in the world; our Cupertino community ranks third, after the scholasticate in Bangalore. There are many similarities between our community and the Marianist Residence in San Antonio, especially the devotedness of both staffs and the efforts made to be one community. Several members of the community in San Antonio are active in the university and there is a program called "Friends of the Marianists" that links selected university students with senior Marianists, thus helping to unite university activity with a contemplative prayer life.

The spacious chapel is always quiet because it is separated from the main building by a corridor where remembrances of the saint of the day and our faithful departed are displayed. A magnificent sculpture of the Descent from the Cross dominates the sanctuary. The Marianist cemetery is alongside the chapel and my strolls there at the end of my daily walks brought back many memories. I knew personally more than two-thirds of those buried there and I continue to regard them as inspiring Ancestors of Courage. My program in San Antonio included meeting with the community council and each member of the community. The personal interviews were genuinely inspiring as many shared with me stories of the turning points of their lives leading them to San Antonio.

I also visited Father Gus Biehl in the hospital and several Brothers who were confined to the skilled nursing care section of the house. I was celebrant for the community mass on Chaminade Day. During the course of the day members of the community participated in celebrations at Central Catholic and at the university. We have nearly 80 Marianists in San Antonio. Unfortunately an invitation from the Woodlawn community to attend an evening gathering of Marianists in the area got lost in cyberspace, but every day at lunch I saw familiar faces. In my walks I visited Brother Cletus Behlman's new art studio and Brother Chas Lohrenz' gardens where he raises vegetables to help the poor.

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