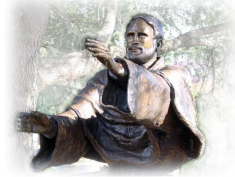

St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish
Cupertino, California
~~ 100 years, 1913 – 2013 ~~

Flyer

February 2013



Life in Cupertino from 1913 to 1945

By Steve Hill

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish celebrates its centennial in 2013. The four 2013 issues of the Flyer will contain articles and stories highlighting our history and heritage. This article focuses on the life and times of Cupertino from 1913 until the end of World War II.

One hundred years ago, Cupertino was an agricultural village full of orchards. The hub of the community was The Crossroads, the intersection of Stevens Creek Boulevard and Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road. At The Crossroads, there was the Cupertino Store, a general store that had groceries, hardware items and post office (site of Valero gas station), a blacksmith shop, St. Joseph of Cupertino church and the Protestant Cupertino Union Church. A branch of the County Public Library was installed in the store in 1914.

The son of blacksmith W.T. Baer, Charlie Baer, opened a garage for automobiles in 1915 at The Crossroads. Charlie opened Cupertino's first gas station in 1922.

The Crossroads was surrounded by family ranches settled by people from the U.S. and foreign countries. Immigrants came to Cupertino from Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands and Yugoslavia. Immigrants from the predominately Catholic countries of Ireland, Italy, Mexico and Yugoslavia (Croats) were the early members of St. Joseph of Cupertino parish.

Cupertino agriculture in the 19th century was dominated by wine grapes. After the vines were killed by the phylloxera by 1905, the farmers converted to orchards. The primary crops were apricots and prunes, and included cherries, pears, peaches and walnuts. The fruit was sold as fresh, canned or dried. A number of canneries were established in Santa Clara Valley to handle the fruit during the summer. They provided seasonal work for women and older children. The Wolfel Cannery was built on Imperial Avenue in the 1920s. Wolfel canned apricots, peaches, prunes, raisins, tomatoes and chicken. The cannery closed in the late 1970s.

Alexander Montgomery, a prosperous farmer and entrepreneur and member of the Cupertino Union Church, donated one acre of land for the new St. Joseph of Cupertino church in 1907. Fundraising efforts led by Henry Voss and John McCarthy raised \$9,000 to pay for a new church. The new St. Joseph of Cupertino church, located just north of the Crossroads, was surrounded by orchards (refer to photo). It had a capacity for 180 people. The property was expanded in later years though fundraising efforts. The church was in use for 46 years, until it



was replaced by the present structure. The first rectory was built in 1921, containing eight rooms and a kitchen.

One person who became notable in the early St. Joseph of Cupertino community was Paul Mariani from Yugoslavia. Paul settled in Cupertino around 1907, working for his father-in-law. Paul became successful through hard work, high integrity and a mastery of orchard farming. Stained glass windows in the current church attest to the legacy of the Mariani family.

The farm families and local merchants formed an interdependent community that helped each other in farming matters and got together socially. Two clubs, the International Order of Odd Fellows and the Cupertino de Oro Club, provided fellowship and social forums. Social activities included card parties at St. Joseph of Cupertino, and socials and dances held at Odd Fellows hall.

During the Depression, the farmers gave work to itinerant men or families who were seeking money or food. During the summer, itinerant families helped the locals pick fruit. Merchants sometimes extended credit to farmers when crops were poor. The loans were repaid from proceeds of the following year's crops.

In the early years of Cupertino, ranch families were served by peddlers using horse-drawn wagons to sell vegetables, meat, grocery items, bakery food and fish. The baker sold bread for 5¢ per loaf. Over time, wagons were replaced by automobiles.

The lifestyle and landscape of early 20th century Cupertino remained largely static until post-WW II. Indeed, an aerial photograph of Crossroads taken in 1948 (Google Earth

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historical imagery) shows the St. Joseph of Cupertino church completely surrounded by orchards. A 1939 aerial photograph displays almost solid orchards across Cupertino, except for development in Monta Vista, The Crossroads and Beaulieu Winery (on site of De Anza College). Stevens Creek Dam was built in 1935.

Two immigrant brothers from Italy, Rosario and Joseph Cali, started a business on five acres of land at the Crossroads, across from the Cupertino Store in 1928. It started out as a trucking business and expanded into a feed and grain mill by 1936. The Cali brothers prospered through hard work, business acumen and deep religious faith, and were noted for generosity toward St. Joseph of Cupertino parish. The Cali Company became one of the most successful businesses in pre-WWII Cupertino. The Cali family business in Cupertino lasted until 1984, when urbanization had displaced most of the valley's agriculture activity.

Prior to 1930, an interurban rail service that connected San Jose with Palo Alto passed through Cupertino. Interurban cars ran along Stevens Creek Boulevard and then turned north in Monta Vista, running along what is today Foothill Expressway. The street car was used by school children for transportation to school.

Beginning in 1906 and continuing until the 1940s, there was active development of the Monta Vista area. Portions of land were purchased by developers, and subdivided with roads and lots. The proximity of the railroad led to sales to San Franciscans who treated their cottages as second homes. Some lots were 100 by 100 feet, and promoted as mini farms where a family could be self-sufficient with vegetable and fruit gardens, chickens and bees.

In 1931 Italian immigrant Charlie Rifredi and his wife, Adriana, opened Rifredi's General Store in Monta Vista. In the early years, Rifredi delivered groceries to seniors. During hard times, he allowed customers to purchase groceries on credit with only a handshake as collateral. The family business lasted until 1978. The Rifredi and Quintero families developed retail business in Monta Vista with development that included a pharmacy, hardware store, barber shop, café, beauty salon and gas station.

In the early years, there were four schools in Cupertino, situated on land donated by local farmers. The schools, San Antonio, Lincoln, Collins and Doyle, were used for about 50 years. Collins was named after the local retired New England ship captain who sold land for it. Lincoln was named in honor of the recently assassinated President. Doyle was named for Peter Doyle who donated one acre of his land for the school.

The schools educated children from kindergarten through eighth grade. They were one-room buildings with mixed grades in the class. Older children would help teach the younger ones. Many teachers came from San Jose Normal School, the precursor to San Jose State University. The children wore homemade clothes, some made out of flour sacks. Since farm children helped pick fruit, the start of school occurred in September after fruit picking was completed. The four schools

were consolidated in 1921 into a single school, Cupertino Union School, located at Stevens Creek and Vista Drive. This was the genesis of the Cupertino Union School District.

Of the four schools, only the 1890 Collins building on Homestead Road survives. It was taken over by a newly formed women's organization, Cupertino de Oro Club, in 1922.

The Depression brought hard times. Prices for fruit dropped and money was tight. It was challenging for the farmers to stretch the income from an annual crop for twelve months.

The Cupertino settlers were independent and self-sufficient. Women worked hard as homemakers. They planted vegetable gardens, canned fruits and vegetables, made clothing and cooked three meals a day for a family and farmhands. Washing, cleaning and sewing were vigorous physical activities. Sewing was done on treadle sewing machines. Some families had a cow and chickens. People grew or raised many food items they ate. Water was heated on wood-burning stoves. Clothing was scrubbed by hand on a metal washboard.

➔ Want to learn more about Cupertino's history?

Connect with the Cupertino Historical Society, <https://sites.google.com/site/cupertinohistoricalsociety/> and visit its museum in the Quinlan Community Center.

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Changed Approach Yields Increased Bingo Receipts

The Holy Name Society Bingo Committee (and especially the Saturday night managers) have really taken to heart and implemented significant changes to improve the nightly profit and the desirability of bingo play at St. Joseph of Cupertino. These changes started from discussions between the Finance Council and the bingo management. The bingo operation is now being viewed with much more of a "business eye" than ever before, and the results show.

The primary reasons for the increase are due to the increase in the prices to play bingo. The headcount has held steady mainly driven by the free Lucky 7's Jackpot game with a current prize greater than \$3,000. Also, the installation of an ATM machine has contributed to the steady rate of flash sales which has been 7 to 8 boxes of flash every Saturday. The bingo committee made a change with monthly updates to the advertisement in the Bingo Bugle. This turnaround is attributed to a fresh and creative evaluation of the event by the Bingo Managers and Committee of the Holy Name Society.

Interviews with Long-Time Parishioners

By Mike Hoffman

The following are stories, thoughts and treasured memories as related by parishioners of St Joseph of Cupertino Church. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoyed hearing and remembering them.

One Sunday, Father Milani was presiding at the 9:30 am Mass. It was a children's Mass and the gospel reading was one of those about a wedding. Sometime during the Mass after the homily and prayers of the faithful, Olivia (then 18 months old) went toddling off in front of the altar. Without missing a beat, Father Milani said, "I didn't expect to see a baby so soon after the wedding." Rose Smith

Sometime after I got sick in 1995, I mentioned to Father Nathan that I wasn't going to Mass since I couldn't make it through the whole service. His suggestion was to go, stay for as long as I could and then leave. Participating in communal worship, even for a short time, was a huge improvement in my quality of life. Over time, I was able to gradually increase the time I stayed until I was finally able to sit through the whole Mass. Mike Hoffman

Father Tierney liked Irish Mist. One year on his birthday, I bought a bottle for him and brought it back to the rectory around 7:00 pm. It was a Saturday evening and Kelly and I rang the bell and were let in and taken to the dining room where Father Tierney and several of his priest friends were finishing dinner and celebrating Father's birthday. The priests were all talking and having a good time. I gave Father Tierney the Irish Mist and, as we were walking out, Kelly said, "Gee, Dad, I didn't know that priests laughed." Dick Sherman

I was very pleased and enthusiastic when Vatican II opened up the possibility for lay members of the Church to read scripture at Mass and give Communion to the sick. As a result, I have been a lector and have brought Communion to residents at a nursing home for over 25 years. This has had a very positive influence on my life. Dick Schumacher

When Kelly started school, I had a lot of dealings with the sisters. When one of the kids got a bruised knee, Sister Attracta would take a frozen sponge and hold it against the wound to ease the pain. When Kelly had her tonsils out, Sister Attracta visited her in the hospital. All the kids loved her. Dick Sherman

I think that the Community Center is a great benefit for the church and I really enjoy using it. If it were not there some meetings would be held in the parish hall that is much farther away from the Church and quite uncomfortably hot or cold much of the time. The Community Center is very conveniently located and comfortable and the A/V system is very good. Architecturally, it fits in very well with the existing structure. One never would suspect it was constructed many years after the main building. Jack Birkholz

When he left St Joseph of Cupertino, Father Tierney went to a parish in Menlo Park. A number of parishioners took him out to dinner from time to time at his favorite restaurant in Woodside. Everyone wanted to sit next to Father Tierney. At one dinner, I had been sitting next to him for a while and someone tapped me

on the shoulder and asked if they could have my seat and be next to Father Tierney. Dick Sherman

Before De Anza Blvd. had a median strip, I would always drive down De Anza and turn left into the church parking lot. One day, there were two white lines in the middle of the street. As I turned into the church parking lot, a highway patrolman followed me and told me I had "crashed a barrier." Seeing something going on, Father Tierney came up and told the officer that I was a good man and would never do it again. I got a ticket anyway. Mike Shovlin

Do you have stories about your experiences at St Joseph of Cupertino you would like to share? If you do, please email me (mikeahoffman@yahoo.com) or call me (408-315-1463).

Saint Joseph of Cupertino, the Flying Friar 1603 – 1663

Joseph Desa was born June 17, 1603 in Copertino, a small village near the heel of Italy. Joseph's childhood was unhappy since his widowed mother considered him a nuisance and treated him severely. He became extremely absentminded and wandered around town with his mouth open. He was unpopular because of his hot temper but precocious in his religious duties.

Joseph was accepted by the Franciscans at Grotella as a servant in the stables. His ensuing humility, sweetness and love of mortification and penance gained him respect, and he was admitted in 1625 for study for holy orders. His reading and writing were very poor and he lacked eloquence except on one text, "Blessed is the womb that bore thee" on which he could expound proficiently.

After ordination in 1628, his life was one long succession of ecstasies, miracles of healing and supernatural happenings on a scale not paralleled in the authenticated life of any other saint. Anything referring to God was liable to ravish him from his senses and make him oblivious to what was going on around him.

During Mass, Joseph would be lifted off his feet in rapture and such levitation was recorded at least 70 times during his first 17 years at Grotella. His baroque buoyancy was observed in Rome, Naples and other cities in front of cultivated and distinguished gatherings, including Pope Urban VIII and the Spanish ambassador.

Liturgy or contemplation would cause Joseph to fall into an ecstatic trance and uttering a loud cry, he would soar into the air, both in churches and in the open air.

Joseph attracted large crowds and convened many. In 1653, he was moved to a lonely friary in Pietrarossa where he lived in strict seclusion, unable to leave the convent or communicate in any way with the world. When he was discovered there by many tourists, he was spirited away to Fossombrone and later Osimo. Here he had supernatural manifestation daily and was in effect, deserted by all. He fell sick August 10, 1663 and died a few weeks later at age 60. He was canonized in 1767 and is the patron saint of aviators, air-travelers and students.

The Signs and Symbols of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church

By Lorinda Rodrigues

There are many signs and symbols inside the St. Joseph of Cupertino Church. To celebrate the centennial of the church, have fun finding many of the signs and symbols in the word search. The answer key is on the parish website.

B N U N S Y D V S Y K T S B N S U K D C
 C A W L F L X R T V H Z G N E A N B H B
 Z V P W J V E B A G E G T U O E O A A A
 P E X T M M A G I T U K T B E I P K N V
 Y E M G I T Z L N R F A M L H E T N K I
 S P W P X S L D E A T Q E H L E U A O T
 N D O S K I M T D S H R X N O N E L T T
 O R J N G B G A G L S C A P C N L A R S
 C M U I A U L C L I I G R I N A C S C B
 I F V A N C E W A F R K A A P T A W J F
 S A N C T U S S S O O T X H N I N O A Y
 T A L A E D J R S L I N V X S V R D L T
 V E S T I B U L E O C C T V P I E N T F
 C F N O I T A T N E S E R P D T B I A X
 V H A M B R Y M O P R G J U X Y A W R I
 U J A D D Z C I J O W M O C C C T K S Z
 O P K N Q P L W A A E A S G N I V R A C
 T E V B C S Z X Q Y P J T P D S F B M B
 I H Z L V E Z P T T D T U G U O H I E A
 B H F G M X L P S C I L E R L C S R X C

ALTARS
 AMBRY
 ANNUNCIATION
 ARCHANGELS
 BAPTISMAL FONT
 CANOPY
 CARVINGS
 CHANCEL
 CHAPEL
 CRUCIFIX
 ICONS
 KNEELERS
 NATIVITY
 NAVE

OILS
 ORGAN
 PEWS
 PRESENTATION
 RELICS
 SANCTUS
 STAINED GLASS
 STATIONS
 STATUES
 TABERNACLE
 VESTIBULE
 VIGIL LIGHT
 WINDOWS

Parish Calendar			
March 17	6:00 pm	Church & CC	St. Joseph Table. Mass followed by reception
May 5	11:00 am Mass	Church & CC	May Crowning followed by reception
May 19	Morning Masses	Comm. Center	Special Celebration of Pentecost
May 26	After all Masses	Comm. Center	Mary Display and Tea
Saturdays	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Sundays	10:30 – 11:00 am	Front of church	Video Lending Library
Mondays	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Mondays	9:30 – 11:30 am	Various	Mommy & Me Playgroup, klhbacich@hotmail.com
Tuesdays	2:30 pm	Comm. Center	Meditation with St. Dorothy
Wednesdays	7:15 – 8:45 pm	Rectory	RCIA
Thursdays	Noon	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
Thursdays	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Comm. Center	Bible Study
Saturdays	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Young Adult Rm.	Young Adult Ministry
1 st Wednesday	7:30 pm	Holy Name Rm.	Holy Name Society meeting
2 nd Wednesday	10:00 – 11:00 am	Local parks	Mom’s Group, Carol Ruiz, 408-777-2966
1 st Sunday	Morning Masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after Mass – coffee and donuts
2 nd Sunday	12:15 pm	Rectory	Scripture Sharing Group
3 rd Sunday	12:30 – 2:00 pm	Rectory	Grief Support Group

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The Flyer, with color photos, is posted on the parish web site.

Articles for the Flyer are welcomed from parishioners.
 Contact the Communications Ministry with a topic before writing it, communications@stjoscup.org