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# St. Joseph of Cupertino

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

## Flyer

June 2013



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### Recollections from 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.

Aline and Tony Pelosi grew up on orchards on Wolfe Road. She picked prunes and cut apricots. It was real work that had to be done. She said, "If you wanted a new dress for school, you had to work." Her daughter Diane said that when Aline was "cutting cots," it looked like the knife was spinning.

Everybody would often have to get up in the middle of the night to put out smudge pots so that the cold wouldn't kill off the buds. After the harvest, the children would build forts with the empty boxes and eat prunes until they got sick.

Tony and Father Milani were buddies. Father Ryan was the prototype of an Irish priest. Mother Philip, the school principal was from a French order. As a child going to school, Diane (Aline and Tony's daughter) thought that if she touched the hem of Mother Philip's garment, she would melt.

Once, Mother Philip called Aline in telling her she had a complaint about Diane's behavior. When Aline asked what Diane was doing wrong, Mother Philip said, "it's just the way she looks at me."

Tony and Aline have 6 children, 15 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. At one point, Tony said, "Great grandchildren are not our problem. The grandparents can take care of them."

There has been a family gathering on Christmas Eve for the last 50 years. Certain aunts and uncles would always sit in the same places. One aunt would always come late and always put some cookies in her purse before leaving.

Vern and Della Griffin moved to Cupertino in 1948. Della remembers a sign on the road announcing that the population of Cupertino was 200. They sold a Chevrolet Club Coupe for the down payment on their first house.

Farmers came from miles around to attend Mass at St Joseph. An old farmhouse at the front of the property served as a rectory. The church was much farther back on the lot.

Father Philip Ryan was appointed Pastor at St Joseph in 1951. Della liked him immediately and described him as "an Irishman of the first water." He would always stand in the vestibule and greet people after Mass. He once told Vern, who wasn't Catholic then, what a handsome guy he was. He blessed their house.

During Father Ryan's tenure, the present church was built. A fund raising drive was conducted in 1952 among the 200 parish families, which succeeded in obtaining the major portion of the required amount (projected to be around \$180,000). If 200

families contributed a total of, say \$140,000, the average contribution per family would have been \$700. That is over \$5,800 in today's dollars at a time when the average income was a fraction of what it is today.

Ben and Marilyn Nauss became parishioners at St Joseph in 1958. Marilyn described Cupertino at that time as consisting of orchards and geeks in garages. They have 7 children.

Marilyn taught CCD classes. Ben and the boys manned the hamburger stand at festivals. They wanted their children to attend school at St Joseph's but they couldn't get in right away. For a time, they went to school at St Nicholas in Los Altos. Their oldest attended Mother Butler High School, which is now a military academy.

There was a section of homes behind St Joseph called Cathedral Alley. Almost everyone there went to St Joseph and they all had large families. People dressed up for Church; the women wore hats.

Everybody attended the festivals, parents and children. There was a fishing pond, beanbag throw, surprise package and a hamburger stand. Everything was geared towards the children. It was wonderful.

Marilyn was a substitute teacher at the school. She dressed very conservatively and wore a large cross that a priest had given her. One day a woman walked up to her and asked her, "Sister can you tell me .....?"

Mariqueta Churchill loved the tree in front of the church. It had lovely purple blooms and, when they fell off, they covered the ground like a carpet.

Her husband, Dewey, was not a Catholic then and she went to church alone or with her kids. It was hard to take the kids to Church. They were 6, 5, 3 and one was a baby. They were a handful. She said, "Since I didn't know anybody and nobody acted friendly, I just went to Mass and came home. Father Ryan, however, was always very sweet and friendly towards me."

She remembers that the Church was always full. She said, "If you came at 11:00 for the 11:00am Mass, you had to stand in the vestibule. There was no room inside the Church; people were standing along the walls." Most of the parishioners were Italian, Irish and, she thinks, Portuguese.

I would like to thank the interviewees, Diane Harrington (Aline and Tony's daughter) and Marieann Shovlin; without whose generous assistance this article would not have been possible.

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](mailto:mikeahoffman@yahoo.com)) or call me (408-315-1463).

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## Technology History

By Ed Johnson

What draws so many of us here? Ideal climate?  
Expensive housing? Startups? Adventure?

If you are an engineer, scientist or technologist; likely the concentration of technology companies in the San Francisco Bay Area is why we are here. This is where our special talents and skills are put to use developing and producing products then sold to the whole world. Our home area is exceedingly special...magic happens here!

How did the concentration of technology happen here? We can trace the roots to the 1849 California Gold Rush.

*The first settlements were drawn by the magnificent estuary of the San Francisco Bay, a natural harbor and gateway to California's interior. The discovery of gold attracted many people and changed so much!*

After the early gold "easy pickings" days past, the search for gold turned to mining. Mining equipment was needed. Joshua Hendy started a machine and iron works in San Francisco building steam engines and stamp mills to crush gold bearing ore and many more mining devices. The 1906 great earthquake destroyed the iron works. Smart folks in Sunnyvale offered Hendy free land for a new iron works. The Hendy Iron Works became the largest engineering and machining enterprise in the West. Today Northrop Grumman Marine Systems in Sunnyvale carries on the Hendy heritage building ship propulsion turbines, turbine electric generators and weapons launchers.

The money earned from the Gold Rush, and then transcontinental railroad building, became seeds for higher education including Santa Clara University 1851, U.C. Berkeley 1868 and Stanford University 1891. The universities attracted the smartest youth and produced engineers, research scientists and technology specialists.

Santa Clara Valley, long known as "*The Valley of Heart's Delight*" was dominated from 1777 to 1960's by agriculture, with many fruit orchards and canneries supplying the country with fruit. Companies building equipment for this industry included Bean Spray Pump Co. in Los Gatos that later became Food Machine Corp, FMC. FMC built tracked military vehicles in WWII and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle in 1990's. Today FMC is part of BAE Systems. The U.S. Navy bases and air stations from before WWII to the 1990's strongly influenced our area's military technology development. NASA Ames Research center at Moffett Field continues military and commercial advances today along with companies like Lockheed-Martin and Loral.

As each wave of inventions and developments brought new capabilities, savvy individuals often started companies to develop products based on these newest gems.

Following Marconi's development of radio transmission from 1894 to 1907, Radio-Electronics technology began in the S.F. Bay Area with companies like Federal Telegraph Company in Palo Alto in 1909, building spark and arc radio transmitters. Lee DeForest who invented the Audion tube in 1906 was hired by Federal Telegraph to develop vacuum tubes and improve

radio receivers. The successful Triode tube was developed at the FTC Electronics Research Laboratory in Palo Alto between 1911 and 1913. More vacuum tube companies followed including Heintz & Kaufmann in San Francisco, then Eitel-McCulloch/EIMAC in San Bruno, then San Carlos. Federal Telegraph's chief engineer Charlie Litton left to start Litton Engineering Laboratories in Redwood City, later Litton Industries in San Carlos, making microwave magnetron oscillator tubes for RADAR and today's microwave ovens. The Varian brothers developed the microwave Klystron oscillator at Stanford, and then started Varian Associates, Microwave Power Products in San Carlos in 1948 moving to Palo Alto in 1953. Today, the Varian microwave power tubes and EIMAC radio power tubes are part of Communications and Power Industries in Palo Alto. Hewlett-Packard started in Palo Alto in 1939 and became a major company in worldwide electronics, test equipment and computers. Ampex started in San Carlos in 1944 and later, Redwood City, developed audio tape recording equipment then video and data recording equipment used by broadcast, industry and research.

A group of communications equipment companies started during WWII and later, including (GTE) Lenkurt Electric 1944, Farinon Electric (Aviat, Santa Clara), (GTE) Sylvania, Lockheed-Martin, Philco Western Development Labs (Space Systems/Loral, Palo Alto), Avantek, TRW and more.

Transistors, semiconductors and integrated circuits stem from Shockley Semiconductor Labs, 1956 in Mountain View. Many of us know how Fairchild Semiconductor started in 1957 then Intel, AMD, National, Cypress, Marvell, Altera, Xilinx, Silicon Graphics, Nvidia and many more followed.

Computers have a strong presence here. IBM opened San Jose Labs in 1952 developing the first disk drive and today's IBM Almaden Research Center. Apple Computer started in Cupertino in 1976 and has a significant influence here today. Sun Microsystems (acquired by Oracle) started in Santa Clara in 1982. XEROX PARC and SRI International quietly influence many technology advances. Recently, Dell computers opened an office here.

With the advancement of computer hardware, came the need and ability to create software program applications to run on the computers.

Software, Internet, Search and Social Media; largely started here too with Oracle, Cisco, AltaVista, Yahoo!, Google, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and more. Today's technology companies stand on the shoulders of those who imagined and built before. A measure of that pervasive technology activity is patents. San Jose, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Cupertino, Mountain View area has the most patents issued per capita and total number in the USA...by far!

The relative ease with which startup technology companies can begin, and the frequent collaboration between companies and individuals, underlies the grand success of today's global technology center, *Silicon Valley*.

That's why we are here. Many of us gain knowledge and experience and then begin our own ventures. The cycle continues and the technology empire grows!

## 1945 to 1970: Population and Commercial Growth Displace Agriculture

By Steve Hill

This second in the series on the history of Cupertino focuses on the period from the end of WWII until 1970. This was a time of tremendous change for both the community and our parish.

From 1945 until 1970, the population of Cupertino grew from around 2,000 to 18,200. The numbers do not tell the whole story. There was a wholesale conversion of the area from rural agriculture to a modern, suburban community.

### City incorporation

During the early 1950s, incorporated cities in Santa Clara County were growing rapidly and spreading their boundaries. Citizens in unincorporated Cupertino feared they would be annexed by San Jose, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara or Los Altos. A big shock came when San Jose annexed the area bounded by Bollinger Rd., De Anza Blvd. and Prospect Ave. A group of citizens began to work to make Cupertino an incorporated city. They circulated petitions in favor of incorporation. In September 1955, with a 75% turnout, 55% of the voters were in favor of incorporation. The new city included 1,746 residents and 3.8 square miles (13 square miles today). Agriculture use accounted for 75% of the land. The one snag was a successful movement by Monta Vista residents to remain unincorporated. Over the ensuing years, Monta Vista annexed into Cupertino lot by lot until the remaining area went into Cupertino in 2004. San Jose extended annexation as far west as the eastern boundary of Monta Vista High School, including Kennedy Middle School. Portions of Sunnyvale south of Homestead Road are vestiges of that city's expansion of its southern boundary a few months before Cupertino's incorporation. By 1970, Cupertino was a checkerboard of housing tracts and legacy orchards.

The first dedicated library opened in 1960 in the Allario Shopping Center (site of Trinethra Indian Super Market). The Town Center was started in 1963. That same year, Paul Mariani, Jr. obtained rezoning of farm land for development of the Homestead Square Shopping Center. In 1965, plans were revealed for Vallco Village Square Shopping Center. A GEMCO store (predecessor to Target) opened in 1965. City Hall was built in 1966. The Crossroads Shopping Center was started around 1967, and it included a Safeway store.

### Schools

Coupled with the rapid population growth and spread of suburbia was a rash of new school construction. The city's eight elementary schools were built: Collins, Eaton, Garden Gate Lincoln, Regnart, Sedgwick and Stevens Creek. Hyde and Kennedy middle schools were constructed. Three high schools, Cupertino, Homestead (Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak attended) and Monta Vista were built. De Anza College opened in 1967. In less than 25 years, Cupertino's education infrastructure went from a few, small, country schools to K-college campuses with a capacity for thousands of students.

As the school population swelled in the 1950s and 1960s, many schools were built. When school population declined in the 1970s and 1980s, some were closed. (FUHSD tried to close Monta Vista High School around 1980, but backed off due to public outcry). Some of today's parks were once school sites, e.g., Jollyman, Hoover, Monta Vista, Wilson and Creekside.

### Vallco development

In the early 1960s, 25 farmers in the northeast part of Cupertino banded together to market 450 acres of land for industrial park use. They foresaw the inevitability of growth in the city. Seventeen of them formed Vallco Park, six others sold their land to Varian Associates (Varian founder Russell Varian was a Cupertino resident) and two decided to continue farming elsewhere. The name Vallco was derived from the names of the principal owners/developers. The developers' vision was to rival the Stanford Industrial Park, with companies employing 20,000 people. In addition to Varian, early companies in Vallco Park included Watkins-Johnson, Intersil, Mark Systems and American Micro Systems. Tandem Computers and Hewlett-Packard would follow.

### Transportation

California's booming post-War population led to the state's freeway construction boom. Plans from 1958 envisioned two freeways bisecting Cupertino: Interstate 280 cut east to west and California 85 from north to south. I-280 and the northern portion of CA-85 starting at Stevens Creek Blvd. were built in 1965. Land for CA85 south of Stevens Creek was held unused by the state until the freeway was built in 1994. Today, the city is divided into four quadrants by these two freeways.

### Houses and apartments displace farms

Home construction proceeded rapidly after incorporation. Development mimicked the sprawl occurring in cities across the state. It was a mix of single family homes and apartments, with local shopping centers and neighborhood schools. Even die hard farmers inevitably sold to developers as the encroaching housing developments made farming less practical. Displaced farmers often settled in the Central Valley.

### St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish

The 1950s witnessed enormous changes for our parish. A new church was built in 1953. The school opened in 1956, and the parish hall was enlarged in 1959. The rectory was built in 1961. A convent for the teaching nuns was opened in 1966. Generous parishioners in the 1950s and 1960s left a legacy of development that serves us well today.

Our parish boundary shrunk dramatically, to closely align to Cupertino's city limits. Between 1951 and 1964, seven parishes were spun off St. Joseph of Cupertino in Los Altos, Saratoga, Santa Clara, San Jose and Sunnyvale.

➔ 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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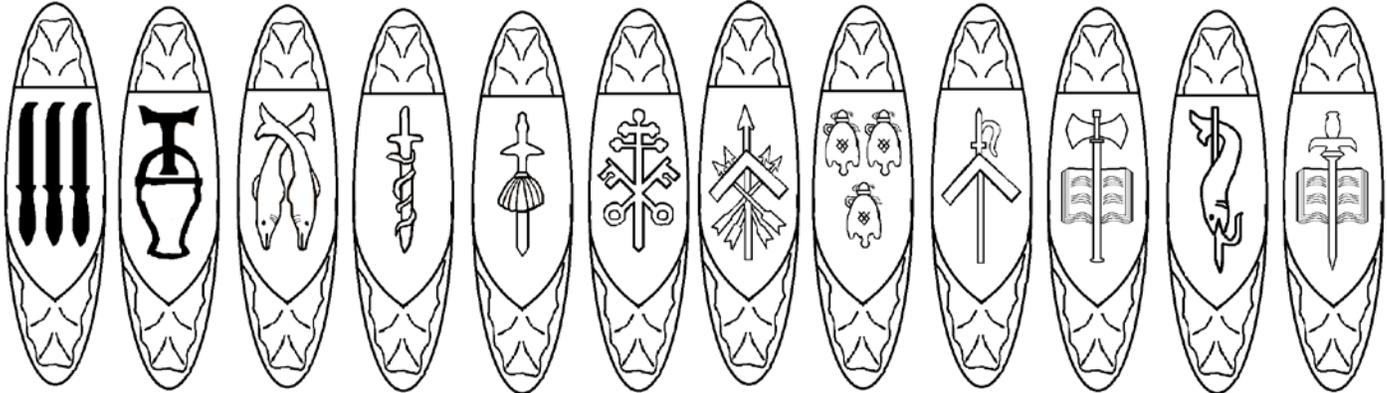
## How Well Do you know St. Joseph of Cupertino Church?

Lorinda Rodrigues

Have you noticed the carvings on the back wall behind the altar? Ever wonder what they stand for? They represent the 12 Apostles. Below are renderings of the carved images. Match the Apostle with their symbol. The solution is on the Parish website:

<http://www.stjoscup.org/newsletter.php>

St. Andrew, St. Bartholomew, St. James, St. John, St. Jude, St. Matthew, St. Matthias, St. Paul, St. Peter, St. Philip, St. Simon, and St. Thomas



Parish Calendar			
June 23	TBD	Church	Centennial Organ Concert featuring Lothar Bandermann
Aug. 6	TBD	Church	Open cornerstone
Sept. 13-15		Various	Parish Carnival, sponsored by SJC school
Sept. 15	9:30 am	Field	Centennial Outdoor Mass
Sept. 22	Noon – 3:00 pm	Hall	Parish Feast Day Centennial Celebration
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 Sr. 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 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	7:30 pm	Holy Name Rm.	Holy Name Society meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	10:00 – 11:00 am	Local parks	Mom’s Group, Carol Ruiz, 408-777-2966
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Morning Masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after Mass – coffee and donuts
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	12:15 pm	Rectory	Scripture Sharing Group
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	12:30 – 2:00 pm	Rectory	Grief Support Group

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### St. Joseph of Cupertino Flyer

Published Quarterly by  
St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish,  
Communications Ministry

[communications@stjoscup.org](mailto:communications@stjoscup.org)

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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](mailto:communications@stjoscup.org)