

Extracted from St John Vianney July 31, 2011 Bulletin

**Rambling XIV** by Carl Beyer and Friends

Rain, Oh Glorious Rain. It has started but more is needed. We need all the fires one hundred percent contained, so, more rain, please, Lord! I was working outside when it started raining the other day and I was just happy to stay out in it and enjoy its cooling effect. The rain poured on and on and soon was flooding the patio for the first time in, I cannot remember how long. The soil just opened up and breathed a sigh of relief.

As you read this, naturally you must be thinking, "I wonder what Carl likes to eat?" Yes, next week is our potluck and we will celebrate it big-time in honor of the feast day of our Patron, St John Vianney. His Feast Day is actually Thursday, August 4th, but we were not sure how many people would be able to attend on a Thursday, so we will celebrate on the following Sunday, August 7th. So, as a refresher, and for those who are new to our parish, a reminder of my favorite dishes: First on the list is Sausage Lasagna, followed closely by Mac and Cheese. Now, while Sausage Lasagna, using real meat, is pretty straight-forward, the Mac and Cheese can easily be misinterpreted. I am not asking for the boxed three-for-a-dollar variety. No, I'm talking....the made-from-scratch kind with those crunchy bread crumbs on top and the real cheddar cheese that makes your taste buds go wild. Do we have that clear now?

On the green side, we planted a row of grapes to act as a green wall between ours and our neighbors' yards, and they are gaining ground. We put up the needed poles and wires for the grapes to climb and they have been cooperating. We planted our vines late but they are growing fast. We should have some summer squash to barbeque in a couple of weeks and the watermelon is aggressively covering the ground with buds which we hope will turn in to big juicy melons. The horseradish, after a terrific start of the season, has taken a beating with the heat we have been experiencing. I hope it can struggle on and prevail. The favorite activity for our two year old grandchild is to stroll through our strawberry patch, picking and eating its gracious offering of fruit. The apples trees, too, are bearing fruit, while the nectarines and peaches took the year off. We somehow missed the cherry tree's offerings. By the time I checked, all that remained were pits. We planted a couple more cherry trees out front, so maybe next year we will have more cherries.

Have you noticed how nicely St. John Vianney Mission Church continues to grow? We are taking on more and more responsibilities ourselves while still enjoying the massive support offered us by our Mother Church, St Thomas Aquinas. We will be starting our first confirmation class soon. Having an Altar Society at SJV would be a real pleasure, and there is some talk of our having our own in the near future. Another parishioner hopes to begin heading a team of evangelists to spread the good news of our mission church. Wow. And then, what can be said about St Thomas Aquinas Parish Church's recipient of this year's St Frances of Assisi award to our own faithful and humble servant, Cosmes "Cos" Madrid? Cos is always the first to be there to help, and with a smile. Cos serves as Extraordinary Minister of the Most Holy Eucharist, but his biggest contribution is keeping our Mission Church and its grounds clean. No small task!! Personally, I like ushering when I know Cos is at Mass, because with his Emergency Medical background he is there in a flash to support anyone who has a medical problem. God Bless you, Cos, and We Thank You for all you do for our church.

Let me hitchhike on Msgr. Raun's message of a couple of weeks ago and ask for everyone to dress modestly for Church. A simple rule to remember is: no bare knees and no bare shoulders should be seen at church. Following this simple rule we could make a big dent in correcting the inappropriate dress. Come on guys, put on big boy's pants. Ladies, dress in a way with which your father/Father would be pleased.

Go forth and cook. Go forth and plan on being at the potluck. Go forth and make plans to serve our Lord faithfully. God Bless you all.