



Merry Christmas

The Good Neighbor

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A Monthly Publication for Menlo Commons Residents

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

In Our Midst: Archbishop John Quinn

TGN: It is a pleasure to interview you. May I call you John?

John: Yes. That's what my parents called me, and you can too.

TGN: How long have you resided at Menlo Commons?

John: I moved in eight years ago. I very much like living here. People are friendly and considerate. Before I came to Menlo Commons, I was living at St. Patrick's Seminary..

TGN: Describe your early life and later career.

John: I was born and raised in Riverside, California. After high school, I decided to become a priest. I lived at the North American College in Rome and did my course of studies at Gregorian University founded in 1553. I lived in Rome for six years and had the opportunity to travel in Europe and to learn several languages. After that I did parish work in California and taught theology. I have also taught at the University of San Francisco, Santa Clara, and the University of San Diego. While I liked the challenge and the give and take of teaching, I cherished the experiences I had in parish life, especially visiting the sick and comforting the dying, sharing the joys and hopes of young people preparing for marriage and the many other things that are part of parish life. I was then made Auxiliary (Assistant) Bishop in San Diego and four years later, Pope Paul VI sent me to become the first Archbishop of Oklahoma City and in 1977 he sent me to be Archbishop of San Francisco. I resigned on December 27, 1995 after 18 years as Archbishop of San Francisco., I served as President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops from from 1977-1980. During many years I had reason to visit Rome perhaps twice a year. I had frequent meetings with Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, and met also with the then Cardinal Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict XVI.

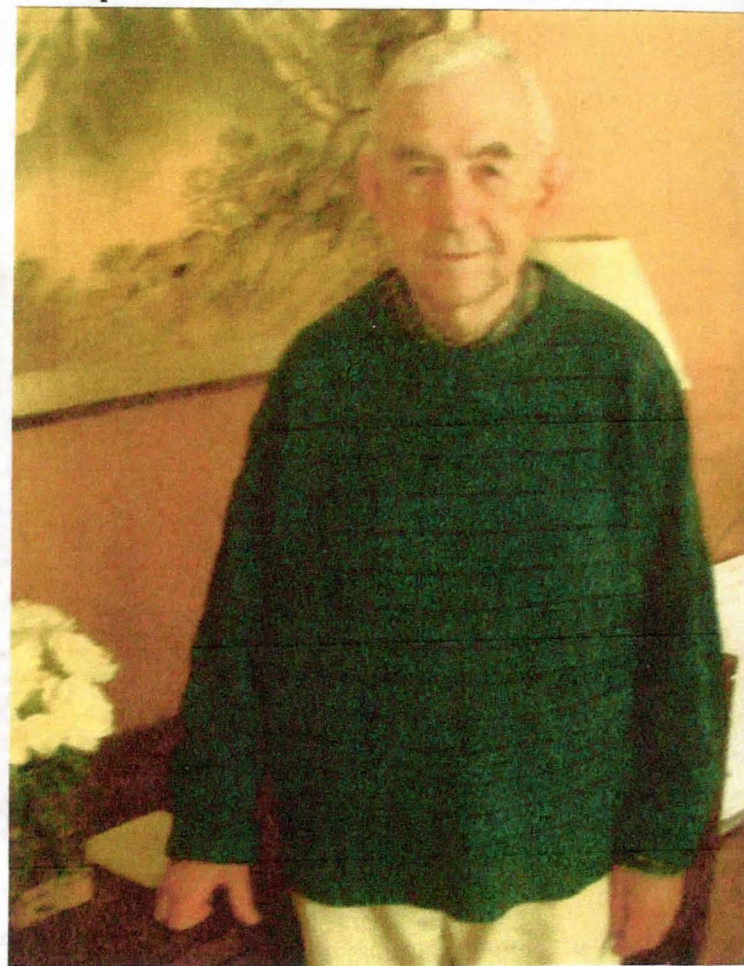
TGN: So what do you do now?

John: I am quite busy., I never wake up asking "What will I do today?" I have a fair amount of correspondence. I see people who want to consult with me. I go for Mass at various places. I am working on some books which occupies a lot of time. I have some spiritual retreats for lay people and other groups from time to time. Two books I have in print are "The Reform of the Papacy" and "Ever Ancient, Ever New: Structures of Communion in the Church".

TGN: I understand you also play the piano?

John: Yes. I have a piano which belongs to the Archdiocese of San Francisco and which they have loaned me. I started to play as a child I confine myself to classical music, In the seminary I played the organ and was choir director for the student choir.

TGN: I hear you have had an important role on the national scene.



John: I served as president of the national Bishop's Conference at the time Pope John Paul II made the first papal visit to the United States. Last February I attended the State of the Union address and the next morning I gave the prayer at the opening of the daily session of the House of Representatives, thus meeting two leading figures of both parties, President Obama and Speaker Boehner. It was an inspiring moment to see the whole of the American Government in one historic hall and deepened my pride in being an American.

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TGN: Would you give us a Christmas message to inspire?

John: *Spontaneously, it strikes me that our sentiment here at Menlo Commons should be one of very great gratitude that we live here. People are friendly, it is quiet, it is well located. Thanks to Val, the grounds and buildings are very well maintained. Our Christmas thought should be one of gratitude for all this, for the beauty of the Bay Area, for California, and that we live in this country. There are many and much deeper reasons we have that lead us who are Christians to the light in the darkness shining from the crib in Bethlehem. To all men and women of good will, I thin we each send our own wishes for blessings and peace.*

TGN: Thanks, John.

Menlo Commons Celebrates the Holiday Season!



Pat Galvez
and
Robin
Ginsberg
our social
hostesses

A large turnout of Menlo Commons residents and their guests enjoyed the beverages and food of the Holiday Party on Wednesday night, December 11. Social hostesses Pat Galvez and Robin Ginsberg organized a colorful dinner for all those who attended, catered by Black and White Caterers. Filet of beef, vegetable platter, cheese platter, smoked salmon, fruit skewers, caramelized onions, shrimp cocktail, petite turkey, swiss roller sandwiches, mini cupcakes, coffee and tea! Wow!

Stewart and Ryan (grandchildren of Shirley Stewart) were our champagne and wine servers. At the electronic piano with Holiday season music was Gwen Leonard. The party lasted late! This was one not to miss.

The Good Neighbor is written and published monthly for residents of Menlo Commons by Jim Palmer, E-303, jdpalmerjr@aol.com. You are invited to send you comments and suggestions for articles to him.