

December 2010

Dear Family and Friends,

It was Joe's 70th birthday, Judy's 70th and our 45th wedding anniversary. Lots to be happy about. We celebrated by camping on the Umqua River in Oregon with all our kids, their spouses and our grandchildren. Everyone enjoyed rafting and fishing and balmy weather with no mosquitoes. Joe spent the week with a black eye which he got when setting up the tent trailer. A bar whacked him in the nose and being on Coumadin, he bled internally and sometimes externally for more than two weeks. If you look closely at the picture of him you will see the black eye which Judy improved somewhat with Photoshop.

When we returned home, we celebrated our 45th at Sunday Mass in our parish. Fr. Angelito unexpectedly asked if we wanted to say a few words to the congregation. We did and our message was commitment, lifelong learning and "the woman is always right" (from Joe). He believes that guys (including himself) are generally clueless about relationships.

Judy spent two weeks in Ireland with a group of professional photographers. What a good way to travel! Everyone would stop on a dime to take pictures and no one complained. In the evenings we would share our best photographs and get insight into how other photographers think and see. The Irish people were unusually fun, gracious and curious about us. Judy thinks Ireland is the first place people who have never traveled should go. You can't help but like the Irish people, and they liked us.

We traveled several times to our daughter Amy's in Boise, Idaho and continued painting their remodeled house. We did get some excellent cross country skiing during the winter. This November we camped on the North Salmon River with their family. Mike found a guide for us and Joe caught four steelhead salmon and Judy caught three. Joe has tried to catch a steelhead on the Russian River for 5 years with no success. Judy calls them mythical, elusive fish.

We loved going back to Minnesota and Wisconsin in July where we saw our Brandl and Tembrock relatives. Joe attended an Oblate retreat at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn. where he went to college. Now all four Tembrock brothers are Oblates. Judy enjoyed visiting with wonderful friends from Cathedral High School, the O'Keefes, Paulsens, Brandls, and Halls.

Living in the country suits us. There has been plenty of rain so far this year. With the winter rains come the frogs and they are revved up now, singing loudly every night. Funny how this to us has become a sign of approaching Christmas. Our creek is flowing - perfect for a toy boat race. Though we have no indoor pets, we do have outdoor chickens and plenty of wild animals, currently foxes, wild turkeys and blue heron. We don't have deer and seldom have bunnies, thus our flower and vegetable gardens are not fenced. We have roses blooming without fear of deer.

The grapes were awful this year, mildew and then sunburn. We had to pick them before the sugar content got high enough. It wasn't just us. The big growers around us had trouble too. We did make 20+ gallons of Zinfandel and Petite Sirah and we will see how it tastes.

Joe loves our church and is always seeking opportunities to form small, loving Christian communities. He is in the process of writing a letter to the pope. If you are interested in a copy, e-mail Joe at the e-mail address below. His main issue is the lack of meaningful roles for women in our church.

Our family is blessed as we are all well and employed or retired. Becky, Dave, and Josiah Lorenz from Eugene, Oregon were here for Thanksgiving. Josiah had his First Communion in June. Mary, Frank,

Nate and Tyler Roller moved into a brand new home in Cupertino, and they love to entertain. Joe and Judy designed and put in Mary and Frank's landscaping. People have stopped by and wanted to hire their landscapers. Ryan Roller has a job. Yay! Will is at Harvard. More Yay! Amy, Mike, Rachel, Emily and Jennay Edmondson in Boise, Idaho are enjoying their newly remodeled home. All of us except for Mary's family are going to descend on the Edmondsons for New Years and skiing at Bogus Basin. We are so happy that Joey, Belinda, Kate and Anna live near us so we can be involved with school, games, birthdays and get together.

Christmas joy and peace in the New Year,

Joe and Judy Tembrock  
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