

Dear Family and Friends,

December 11, 2009

As we reflect over the past year, we are awed by the blessings we have received and by our joy in living.

Joe loves our parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe. He says he “jumps for joy” when he is there and that is almost daily as he is parish council president and interim finance council chair. It is a large parish of ~2,500 families and perhaps an equal number of Spanish speaking occasional members. Joe speaks no Spanish but he smiles a lot. His vision is a parish of many small communities united in loving one another. The parish has a new web site: [www.olgwindsor.org](http://www.olgwindsor.org).

Three years after planting a vineyard, Joe harvested and sold some wine grapes: pinot noir, petite syrah, and zinfandel. The chardonnay got mildew. He made three big mistakes with the vineyard this year, but he has about 20 gallons of wine resting and ready for drinking next fall. Our landscaping is about almost complete (we have 4 ½ acres). Joe has 28 irrigation zones and most of the watering works most of the time. Judy always points out the one plant that isn't right. That's her photographer's eye for detail.

Joe spent over a year as executor of his mom's estate. Most of the process was an opportunity to relive the many happy memories of growing up in Ogema, Minnesota (population 141) and the many family events. He plans to do a final update on the story of his mom's life (she lived to be 94).

At our annual summer trip to Minnesota/Wisconsin, Joe went to a weekend Oblate retreat at St. John's Abbey with his three brothers. All 4 of the Tembrock attended St. John's and 2 of Joe's brothers were monks for awhile. While fishing at the family cabin on White Earth Lake, he caught a 5 pound Northern Pike and got a treble hook in his finger. After 60 years of fishing, this was the first trip to the emergency room to get a hook out and his wedding ring cut off. Nice fish on the last cast.

Judy landscaped and planted a new annual flower garden and it was awesome. About half the garden was zinnias and we enjoyed cut flowers until Thanksgiving. The back row was hollyhocks, and some might have come from his mom's garden. Judy is still active in her local photography group where she is secretary. She is going to Ireland in May to study photography and do a bit of traveling. Joe had planned on going, but he and Judy may visit Spain in the spring. Judy is moving toward retirement, but she loves to take pictures of our grandchildren. She enjoys doing photo books with stories around the pictures.

Chickens are still a big thing here in the country. We got 3 new peeps before Easter (two of the chicks are on Josiah's shoulder on the picture below. The two old hens (out of our original 8) were very possessive and didn't want the young ladies eating their food. They get along OK now, but only the young are laying eggs every day. We got fancy as Joe just installed an auto watering device so we can travel easier without having our neighbors come by every day to give water to the chickens.

This is the year of construction for some of our family. We made 5+ trips to Boise, Idaho, 4 of them related to Amy & Mike's selling their current house and moving into a 50's house where they made major remodeling changes. We are becoming masters of painting closets and baseboards. After much planning, Mary & Frank razed their Cupertino house and are building a brand new house. They are using the same general contractor that built our house. The current plan is to be done in six months and move in the first of March.

We thoroughly enjoyed the annual balloon festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico this October. We drove and first we went North to Boise, Idaho to help Amy and Mike move; then to Arches National Park in Utah and met Joe's brother Bill and wife Kathy; then to Colorado to see Joe's nephew John Tembrock and family; and

then to the balloon festival and our stay with former neighbors Jim and Kay McMillan. Over 500 balloons went up in an hour and we were right in the middle of the lift offs.

We are fortunate that our children all have jobs. Dave and Becky Lorenz love their new neighborhood near Eugene, Oregon. Dave is a district forest manager for the state of Oregon and Becky substitute teaches. Josiah loves chickens and science. Mary and Frank are in constant crisis as they have to make major decision on their new Cupertino house every day. Frank works at Lockheed as a payload manager of a government satellite project and Mary teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Their sons, Nate and Tyler are blond, curly head, active boys. Mary asked Joe how long he fought with his brothers and Joe allowed it was well into his 20's. Frank's son Will is a senior at Bellarmine and Ryan graduated from Gonzaga. Amy works almost full time for Hewlett-Packard in Boise, Idaho and her husband Mike, now works for the State of Idaho and is in charge of fish (primarily salmon). They have transformed the house they moved into in October. All oak hardwood floors on the main floor have been refinished, and Mike did a lot of electrical, in floor radiant heating and computer network stuff. Rachel and Emily are now an easy walk to their new school and Jennay goes to Montessori a couple days a week. Joey is a project manager for a small construction company that builds very high end houses in Marin County. Belinda teaches grade school at a private Christian School and their daughter, Katy is in her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. Anna is in the second grade and will be Tinker Bell and Katie will be John in Peter Pan next week.

Many blessings to you this Christmas,

Joe and Judy Tembrock

Our grandson, Josiah with two of our baby chicks



Joe with his petite syrah grapes

