

Merry Christmas

The biggest and best news of the year is that we found out our daughter Betsy is engaged to be married. We found out the day after Thanksgiving, which made back-to-back days of Thanksgiving. We are very blessed, and are sure Betsy & Nathanael consider themselves very blessed as well.



Our other children are doing well. Mike and his wife Natalie still out in Colorado Springs, Elaine & Billy puttering around at home with us. Makes it easy to find someone to watch the house when we travel.



One of the first few things that VÂN knew we needed when we bought the house a few years back, was a fence at the front yard. We think it turned out well, but it finished a bit late in the season to plant the grass back. My guess is Spring time will be very busy. It's been a very good year so far.

The year itself was very special for us in other ways as well. VÂN and I were able to travel to a wedding in Texas and stayed a while to visit family

there. Many of VÂN's cousins were there, and children, and grandchildren. I'm not crazy about driving in Houston, but the rest of the visit was really great. We went to a Vietnamese Marian Conference in California, and had another really great time out there visiting family, which extended to great-grandchildren for one of VÂN's siblings. We made it up to New York, where we got to see my siblings, cousin and some good friends. Coming and going, we stopped in Virginia to see more family, VÂN's sister. Seems there are some really cute grandkids there as well. And absolutely everywhere we went the hospitality was super.

It may have been a record year for canning concentrated grape juice. Made a few bottles of wine as well. Some good friends of ours have their own vineyard. Got to pick some figs at our good friends in Cary, but only once or maybe twice as we seemed to be traveling a bit.

VÂN is getting fairly active in the Columbiettes, the woman's auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus, and St Stephen the 1st Martyr has many things we are involved in. And so many very fine people have become our friends in Sanford. It is a good place to call home, and we are very blessed.



Merry Christmas to All

John & Van