

Monterey Reflections

By Fr. Dave Heney



Cypress Point Country Club members know they operate one of the most beautiful and exclusive golf courses in the world. It is a jewel on the Monterey Peninsula.

It is beautiful in a different way than Augusta, Pine Valley, or other courses where wealthy member's resources can ensure beautiful landscaping at any price. Cypress Point certainly has beautiful landscaping, but much of its attraction comes from the architect letting the natural beauty of the land and sea of the Monterey Peninsula shape the course.

The members made it exclusive only to ensure that the most devoted followers of the game would play there.

Players arrive at Cypress Point in awe ...and very nervous! They feel lucky to be there! They are often used to caddies at famous courses "protecting" the place ...from them. *The staff knows that and offers amazing hospitality to ensure that every player enjoys their golf experience to the fullest.* Every staff member treats you as a friend and welcome addition to the course. The caddies pay careful attention to your style of game, whether proficient or not, and will treat either with utmost respect.

They know that they are hosting you to a very special place ...and want you to enjoy it. They are meeting you for the very first time, and know nothing about you, but they know the course well, and its famous history and heritage. *Their goal is to make the meeting between you and the course enjoyable and fulfilling.*

If you can't hit the ball long, they will advise a short game strategy. If you can hit long, they will advise accordingly. They *complement* every good shot and *reframe* the bad ones. When one of my shots went in the rough, which after all is still on a great course, the caddie simply said, *"It is beautiful over there!"* They never change the rules of the game, but are always on your side, and motivate you to do your best, and have fun!

The entire staff sincerely wants to make the *meeting* between the player and the course enjoyable and meaningful. We should do the same for the place that we know that is beautiful and meaningful as well, our Catholic faith.

We may not know all our parishioners well, but we know that what we have to offer is beautiful and eternally meaningful. Let us carefully assess our parishioners well too, and compliment good behavior and reframe any bad choices so that we encourage better behavior. Our life is about helping people meet the Lord in an authentic way that will bring them lasting happiness.