

Unity Acres  
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40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

January 22, 2009

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

The below thank-you note sent by one of our men reflects the appreciation felt by all of our men after a beautiful Christmas experienced here at the Acres.

*TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF UNITY ACRES  
Thank you for making this Christmas one of the best  
That I've had in many years!!!*

Beginning early in December during the season of Advent, after lighting the Advent wreath in our Sacred Heart Chapel, busy preparations began. Phone calls and notes from so many who wish to provide a happy Christmas for men who find this time to be most difficult being separated from loved ones.

In mid December the Altar Rosary Ladies of Christ our Light Parish in Pulaski came as they have been doing for many years, decorated our dining room and provided us with a lovely roast beef dinner with **all** the trimmings following a "cocktail" party of sherbet/fruit punch along with crackers and cheese and other tasty snacks. We would be remiss if we failed to mention a dessert of ice cream & brownies with chocolate sauce, whip topping and cherries!! Santa even put in an appearance. Thank-you ladies (and gentleman) for a terrific evening.

This prompted our men to get into the Christmas spirit. Suddenly community rooms were decorated, Christmas lights were blinking and decorations were in evidence throughout our buildings.

Before we knew it the Christmas Manger was brought up from the storage area in "B" Building and the men were busy setting it up in front of the Altar in our Chapel. Soon a tree was in place and decorations appeared. Shortly thereafter poinsettias were added completing a beautiful Christmas scene.

Christmas Eve was awaited with much anticipation and after supper, gifts so generously provided by you our wonderful supporters were distributed to the men.

Christmas day started off with Mass in our Chapel celebrated by Father Jones offered for our men, friends and benefactors. Our organist Mary Agnes led us in a rendition of traditional Christmas hymns.

Following Mass we gathered in our dining room to partake of our Christmas dinner which was so aptly prepared by our dedicated kitchen staff and so graciously served by the ladies and one gentleman of the Mexico United Methodist Church.

Thank-you to all our many benefactors who again remembered our community here at Unity Acres with gifts of food, clothing and toiletries as well as monetary gifts.

God Bless You,  
Peg McCarthy for Residents and Staff of Unity Acres

January Prayer: Christmas/New Year  
God's Presence at Unity Acres

*"O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today."  
Carol—O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*"For ... in the City of David, a Savior has been born for you  
who is Christ the Lord."  
Lk 2: 11 (Christmas Mass)*

O Jesus, all praise to you, born on this earth to be present to us through all the centuries. We at Unity Acres give thanks for Your Presence to us, in ways gloriously visible and humbly hidden:

- In the hope and promise of Christmas, foretold by the prophets (Advent);
  - In the sharing of much work to prepare to celebrate Your birth;
  - In the out-pouring of gifts, of time, talent and treasure, from our numerous friends and benefactors;
  - In the good-will sharing of joys and sorrows (Compassion);
  - In the splendid feasts, breaking bread together, wrought by the cheerful teamwork of good people;
  - and above all, in Eucharist (Communion), where you are present, born again.
- Saving Lord, Infant Jesus, yet God Incarnate, we give You thanks and praise. Amen

*"... Love's pure light, radiant beams from Thy Holy Face,  
With the dawn of Redeeming Grace,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth"  
–Silent Night*

Father Bob Jones