

# Unity Acres

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March 31, 2015

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

It is now the first week of spring, and there still remains mounds of snow all about us. It was a tough winter and with the help of several men who kept the shoveling, plowing and snow-blowing going, we had the drives open and paths to and from the buildings open for us to safely travel from one to the other. I did hear from Steve that he heard a red-winged black bird (*fogarty, fogarty*) this morning, so that's a sure sign that spring is here. Through the past couple of months since we last wrote to you we have experienced happy and sad times alike. Romans 12: 15 asks us to "*Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*"

On Sunday, February 1 we rejoiced with our Chaplain Father Robert Jones on the occasion of his 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an ordained Roman Catholic Priest. Father was ordained February 2, 1960 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Bishop Foery. Father's celebration was held in our newly remodeled Dining Room and his celebration was shared by our Helen Clark who cooked in our kitchen for many years. Helen's family had given beautiful Stations of the Cross to St. Frances Church in Lacona. The church has since closed and the Stations are now gracing our beautiful dining room.

Along with the happiness of the above celebration, we have been saddened by the passing of loved ones. CHARLES COLEMAN was found dead in his apartment in on December 2. Charles had been with us at the Acres for a few years in the late 1990s, and eventually settled in Pulaski at Springbrook. Charles continued to stay in touch, and so we would see him from time to time, around town, at the Annual picnic, or occasionally when we would attend the funeral of one of our residents.

On January 17 we were informed and saddened to learn that ANN O'CONNOR of Unity Kitchen in Syracuse had died. Ann and Peter King had led Unity Kitchen for some 40 years offering hospitality to so many in the manner of the Catholic Worker movement. Ann's health failed the past year or so and many people are at a loss and hurting over her passing and thoughts and prayers go out to Peter and the many folks who both helped at UK but also those who were recipients of their wonderful hospitality. Ann's prayer card reads "*Learn to fix the eye of faith on the divine word*"

*of the Holy Scriptures as on a light shining in a dark place until the day dawn and the daystar arise in our hearts.”*

Then two and a half weeks later we were shocked and saddened to learn that BARNEY HEINLEY had passed on. Barney and Sue have been stalwart supporters of Unity Acres from the beginning. They were good friends of our Kate Stanton and for years and years they did the contribution acknowledgements as well as gathering many, many donations in the form of canned goods, baked goods, groceries and other goods and merchandise as well as printing the Picnic Flyer for more years than we can remember. At Christmas the men receive a gift bag (formerly a stocking) full of goodies lovingly put together by Sue and Barney. The men are most grateful for these special gifts each year. Their van with the smiley face was well known throughout Mattydale, Syracuse and the whole area. This is a rough time for Sue but there she is still having those donations ready for our men when they come to her house on Wednesdays and Saturdays. You are something Suzie. You and Barney are the salt of the earth for Unity Acres and many others. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to you on the passing of your Barney.

Rest in Peace, Charles, Ann and Barney. We will miss all of you.

Peg McCarthy,  
*For the UNITY ACRES Community*

## Lent to Easter Prayer

Gracious God, Giver of all life, we thank you for the seasons in nature, and the seasons of our Church Year. We bring to completion our Lenten journey. Holy Week ushers us into the glorious season of Easter. The Lord has indeed risen. “Then, (Joseph) rolled a huge stone against the entrance of the tomb.” – Mark 15: 46

“The (women) said, ‘who will roll away the stone?’ They looked up and saw that the stone had been rolled back.” – Mark 16: 2-4

Spirit of God, we pray, roll away the stones that seal us in our tombs of selfishness and sin – stones of greed and corruption, of hardness of heart, of war-making, of envy and materialism, of racism, ageism, sexism, consumerism, oppression and violence. We cannot roll the stones by ourselves, but with your graces, we will emerge fully alive – and we exultantly sing: “The Lord has risen – it is true! Alleluia!”

Father Robert Jones

