



Unity Acres

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September 4, 2015

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

Here we are the first week of September. Where has the summer gone? It's already over two weeks since our annual outdoor Mass and Picnic. The forecast for that day, August 16, was *Hazy, Hot and Humid* with temperatures between 90 and 95 degrees. Not very inviting weather. But lo and behold many of you came in spite of the warning, and from 11 am through the Noon Mass, we enjoyed shade and a lovely breeze to help make our Mass enjoyable and inspiring as well. Mary Agnes & Jan and The McCarthy Family again led us in great music during Mass while Steve, Frank and Deb read from Scriptures and Jim served. Our Chaplain Father Bob Jones was joined by his longtime friend Father Moritz Fuchs and Father Tom McNamara whom we've known since his days at St. Francis Farm.

“Come to the Feast of Heaven and Earth, Come to the Table of Plenty, God will provide for all that we need, here at the Table of Plenty... My bread will ever sustain you through days of sorrow and woe...” sung by the McCarthy Family invited us to begin our Eucharist out here on this lovely summer day following Jan & Mary Agnes singing of “seeing the Master this morning, as the sun was beginning to rise....when He came down to wake up the world”. Our Mass proceeded with the theme of that Sunday first from Proverbs 9 that Wisdom built her house, dressed her meat and spread her table, come and eat of my food. Frank led us in the Responsorial Psalm bidding us to *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*. Debbie followed from Ephesians 5 which warns us to watch carefully how we live, not as foolish persons but as wise...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and Spiritual songs, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of Jesus to God the Father. And then Father proclaimed the Gospel when Jesus spoke to the crowds, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven and whoever eats this Bread will live forever, for the bread that I give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

Out of the 60's we are singing Joe Wise's *Take Our Bread, we ask you, take our hearts, we love you....Yours as we stand at the table you set..*
The Mass continues and at Communion we are *One Bread, One Body*.

Our Mass Program has a quote from Jean Vanier's *From Brokenness to Community* which tells us "we have been drawn together by God to be a sign of the Resurrection and a sign of Unity in the world where there is so much division. We feel small & weak, but are gathered together to signify the power of God who transforms death into life and that perhaps through our Community each one of us can be agents in the world of this transformation of brokenness into wholeness."

When we gather each year for this Mass and Picnic, we are drawn together, benefactor/supporter and resident/staff of Unity Acres. We are drawn here living in Community in this House of Hospitality founded 46 years ago by Father Ray McVey where we become "*One Bread, One Body*". "Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all" as the song goes and we remind each other especially when preparing for this day each year that we are just that, "we are one body in this one Lord". We form Community in our brokenness. We found a quote by Dorothy Day in which she said she was delighted to see this rural house of hospital established by a Father McVey where all work together.

As Mass ends we join Jim, Deirdre & Shane singing *Companions on the Journey*, breaking bread and sharing life...no longer strangers to each other...we are fed and we are nourished by the strength of those who care...we believe in the love of our God.

We now head over to the STAR building and together share in the beautiful feast prepared by our men and their helpers. Spirited conversation takes place as we "break bread together" at table in this renewed dining room just as we had broken bread together at the table of the Eucharist, *one body in our one Lord*.

During July we received a call that has many people very saddened. Jerry Berrigan passed on to his heavenly reward on July 26. Jerry with his dear wife Carol had been part of the Greater Support Group that helped Father McVey with the beginning of Unity Acres. He was a fierce fighter and activist for peace and justice along with his famous brothers Fr. Dan and Phil along with other champions of justice. Jerry protested the wars in Vietnam and Iraq, the

bombing in Cambodia; he was also arrested for acts of civil disobedience at the Pentagon, at the former Griffis Air Force Base and at the Hanley Federal Building in Syracuse. His family estimates he was arrested between 30 and 40 times and spent time in prison several times. Jerry was a much loved supporter and friend and will be terribly missed by all here at Unity Acres.

We recently received word of the passing of some of our former residents, the latest being James M. Burger, 37, who was with us for a short time the summer of 2014. James was in the process of possibly coming back here this summer but fate had other plans. Rest in peace James.

We have also been informed that Chuck Hillman who moved from here to his own apartment in Portland Maine, had died in December of 2014. Chuck was an amiable gentlemen and had lived in A Bldg. He was liked by all and we are saddened at his passing.

In June of this year we were shocked and saddened at the news of the passing of Kurt Kratzert who had been a faithful and hard-working resident here at the Acres for more than two years. Kurt had moved to a nice apartment in Pulaski after serving here as driver, helping in the med room with appointments, painting A Bldg and much of the front of B Bldg as well as some artistic paintings and maybe our most cherished gift, the table that he built for Father Jones to celebrate Mass since Father can no longer stand at the main altar. Several of us joined the Kratzert family at Kurt's Memorial Service in Whitesboro. Kurt also was liked by all and we are very saddened at his passing and miss him greatly.

Peg McCarthy

PRAYER - SUMMER 2015

"Come with Joy into the Presence of the Lord"

Psalm 100

"I rejoiced when I heard them say:

'Let us go to the House of the Lord'" Psalm 122

*LOVING FATHER, WE COME BEFORE YOU WITH THANKSGIVING
AND WITH A REQUEST.*

*OUR PRAISE AND GRATITUDE FOR YOUR BLESSINGS UPON OUR
ANNUAL MASS AND PICNIC AND IN APPRECIATION FOR OUR
MANY FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS.*

*HEAVENLY FATHER, YOU HAVE TRULY BLESSED OUR SPECIAL
EVENTS AS WELL AS THE DAY TO DAY LIFE HERE AT THE ACRES.
AND WE THANK-YOU.*

*AND WE MAKE A REQUEST: THROUGH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, HELP
US TO KNOW EVER MORE KEENLY THE GIFTS SO FREELY GIVEN:
YOUR EUCHARISTIC PRESENCE, THE MASS, YOUR WATCHFUL
GUIDANCE OF OUR DAILY LIVES. IN GOOD TIMES, HELP US
NEVER TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED.*

*IN BAD TIMES LET OUR FAITH AND OUR JOY OVERCOME &
HELP US TO SAY, "LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!"
WE WILL ENTER INTO YOUR PRESENCE, LORD WITH GLAD SHOUTS
OF THANKSGIVING.*

LOVING FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU!

Father Robert Jones