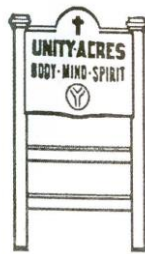


Unity Acres  
P. O. Box 153  
Orwell, NY 13426



Phone: (315) 298-6215  
www.unityacres.org

June 21, 2017

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

### *Bereavements*

I begin this June Newsletter on the first day of summer a very somber, sad day at Unity Acres for tragedy struck yesterday afternoon, June 20<sup>th</sup>, when one of our residents, PATRICK SNYDER, went into the woods alone to cut some firewood. When Patrick had not returned at supper time, his good friend Matthew went back into the woods to check on him and discovered that Patrick had met a tragic death. We are all stunned. Patrick has been one of those people who was a joy to have around. He was fun and he was a tease but inside that exterior was a very compassionate man. He was always busy – didn't want to be idle, nor to be bored. He worked constantly. The flowers around our buildings are due to the green thumb of Patrick Snyder. He is responsible for some of the plants in the men's rooms and in the sitting room of 'B' Bldg. Patrick plowed snow in the winter and mowed lawns in the summer. He helped Henry in the vegetable garden and Matthew with the pigs. Patrick was a jack of all trades, and he did it all with that wonderful smile and good humor. And now we are left with an awful void and it hurts. He died helping all of us trying to provide wood for our boilers to keep us warm in the winter. Rest in Peace Patrick, we will miss you.

A few days prior, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday, we learned that MARK CAPONE, our long-time friend and board member, had passed on to his heavenly reward. Mark's Funeral Mass was at St. Lucy's Church on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Only a few weeks previously Mark had been honored at our annual dinner at All Saints Parish on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the evening: "*In Unity There is Strength*". Mark was presented with a beautiful plaque and members of his family were present as they proudly shared the wonderful evening and listened to his kind words as he accepted that honor. Mark Capone has been a part of Unity Acres before we first met up with the Acres in the fall of 1991. We haven't known Unity Acres without Mark Capone. He has been our President, Vice President, Insurance Advisor and served on several of our committees. Mark Capone has been our friend and our Board Meetings will not be the same without him and his gentle ways. You too Mark, Rest in Peace. We shall surely miss you.

The day after Mark's funeral, Trinity Sunday, some of the Carnes family joined us at Mass in our Unity Acres Chapel except Deb could not be present as she and one of her sons were attending a meeting at the Nursing Home where JOHN CARNES was a resident. John was suffering from the effects of Parkinson's Disease which he had struggled with for quite some time. Deb and the family had been hoping against hope that he could be back home but the next morning came the call that John had passed on. Another unbelievable death strikes home. How can this be? Right on the heels of Mark's passing, another giant of Unity Acres goes Home. John Carnes has been a faithful supporter and Member of the Acres besides being a part of our Congregation at Sunday Mass and during many, many of our week-day Masses, except the past year being unable to attend when the Parkinson's would act up. John was a gentle and soft-spoken gentleman with a quick wit and pleasant personality. He was adored by his children and grandchildren and loved and respected by so many. Five priests shared his Funeral Mass. Every pew in our Sacred Heart Chapel was full and one of the congregants afterwards told us "it was the most beautiful Funeral she ever attended". That's because it celebrated the life of a most beautiful man, a most beautiful friend and one of our Members. Our sympathy and condolences to his dear wife Deb (who is also a member of our Board of Directors), to his mother Rita, his siblings and their spouses, children, their spouses and to those precious grandchildren as well as the rest of his family and many, many friends. Rest in Peace, John and please pray for us.

Backing up to Mark Capone's death on June 4<sup>th</sup>, the next day our Funeral Director Larry brought us the body of a dear former resident EUGENE 'GENO' RODRIGUEZ who had passed on at Pontiac Nursing Home in Oswego on May 29<sup>th</sup>. We celebrated Geno's life at calling hours on the 5<sup>th</sup> and at a Funeral Mass in our Sacred Heart Chapel on June 6<sup>th</sup>. He was laid to rest at Saint Martin de Porres Cemetery here at the Acres. Geno had been quite a character here at the Acres back in the 90's and we had had a great visit with him less than two weeks before he died. His room at Pontiac was similar to the one in 'A' Building where he had many statues and knick-knacks. Geno was proud to have met Bishop O'Keefe and in fact the Bishop had visited him here. Geno had a lot of Faith and had a plaque on his wall with definition of Faith from Scriptures, Hebrews 11, 1.

And again backing up in time, April 30<sup>th</sup> brought the death of another of our old-timers, ROBERT CRAM. Bob had been living at the Acres since at least the late 1980's, and had at various times taken on some key roles in our day-to-day activities, notably as a driver. In his younger days, and as one of the drivers for Unity Acres, Bob carried out many an errand, meeting new and returning residents at the bus stop in town, bringing men to doctor's appointments and so on. He will be remembered fondly for his helpfulness and good nature. Bob's funeral and burial were conducted here at Unity Acres on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

When writing our Newsletter a couple of months ago, we just missed writing about JOHN COYNE who had lived here on and off for several years but who had moved to Bernhards Bay. John was a master with machinery and helped keep our various machines in working order. We received the call that John was found deceased by his good friend Mike in Bernhards Bay on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rest in peace John Coyne and our sympathies to his sister Ellen, her husband Alan and his many friends on the North Shore.

And during those times above described, we were notified by the daughter of one of our former residents, KENNETH WATERMAN, that he had passed on at Loretto in Syracuse, on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Ken was with us for a few years until his memory started to fail and he began wandering in the night. He was admitted to the VA Hospital, being a veteran of the Korean War, and eventually to Loretto in Syracuse. Ken's body was taken home to Wrentham, MA for burial. His daughter Lisa writes a beautiful eulogy and account of her dad's stay at the Acres and how he befriended Father Jones and how they would exchange some Latin responses that Ken learned as an Altar Boy years ago back in Massachusetts where he grew up. *Et introibo ad altare Dei: ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam.* And you **have** gone to the Altar of God, Ken. Pray for us.

*June 25, 2017 (continued)*

I am now back to this epistle the day after Patrick Snyder's Funeral Mass and Burial here at the Acres. A nearly full Chapel paid tribute to this joy-filled man. His sister distributed copies of a photo of Patrick taken by the brook just down the hill from our cemetery, and accompanied by the following sentiment that well describes him: *As I live each day, may I make a difference and touch one heart...Each day it is my goal to bring smiles and laughter into a soul! Love, Peace and Happiness to All!*

We are reeling from all of this grief and we ask our many friends and supporters to pray for us that we can receive the comfort that only God can give.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of August we will again be hosting the Annual Outdoor Mass at Noon followed by Picnic at approximately 1:00 pm. Hopefully it will be a time not only to reflect on the past year but to try to regroup with our many friends and find strength in your support to be able to carry on for another year. This year the date is August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Peg McCarthy

## *2017 Annual Dinner: In Unity There Is Strength*

This past May 11 at All Saints Parish Hall we welcomed so many old friends and some new ones as well at the Annual Friend Raising Dinner. Honored this year was Mark Capone as mentioned above, and also the Parish of Christ Our Light in our neighboring Pulaski, NY. Christ Our Light has provided a wonderful Christmas Party for the men the middle of December for more years than anyone can remember (40 some years). Many men and women from the parish come and put on a banquet for us including turkey, roast beef, all the trimmings and topped off with banana splits made before our eyes – our wide eyes. It is a great night anticipated by all and we appreciate these folks dearly – good neighbors, good friends.

We are thankful to All Saints Parish for hosting this annual dinner. Father Fred Daley and his people have been very welcoming to our Unity Acres Community. We appreciate also the many that joined us that May 11 evening. It is folks like yourselves and those who support us in many other ways that keep Unity Acres here for the many men that need its open arms and hospitality at times in their lives when it is just too difficult to take another step, when addiction and homelessness takes over their lives and finding Unity Acres, they can begin to get their lives back together again.

Patrick's family, Ken's family, Bob's family and families of many more of our men can attest to that.

**COME HOLY SPIRIT! UNITE US AS ONE!**

*PRAYER: SUMMER 2017*

*We give You thanks for Your presence within and among us. Yet we come to You with still more needs and concerns. We pray for inner peace, to equip us to trust in You always.*

*We make this our prayer: "Strive to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, as You were also called to the one hope of Your call: one Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:3-6, Feast of Pentecost)*

Father Jones