

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



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

September 11, 2017

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

We write this Newsletter on September 11, the date of the terrible attack on our country 16 years ago and a day after another type of destruction that has "attacked" us by the forces of nature. First the horrible effects of Hurricane Harvey on Houston Texas and now Hurricane Irma in the Caribbean and throughout Florida and beyond. It is difficult to fathom all of this as we watch the news unfolding and yet look out our windows at the serene and beautiful scenes we experience in our own backyard.

Here at Unity Acres we have enjoyed another Annual Outdoor Mass and Picnic only three weeks ago. This year it was on August 20 which was a perfect summer day. It was a sunny, warm day, not too hot and not a cloud in the sky - a day free of rain. A great deal of preparation for weeks before the big day went into planning the menu as well as the men who work hard on the lawns, gardens and cleaning the buildings and getting at some of the necessary painting. The Menu was trimmed down a bit this year making for a very efficient and delicious picnic meal. The Mass with its Readings and Music reflected the theme of the annual "Friend Raising" Dinner in May, "*In Unity There Is Strength*", the spirit of oneness. Father Jones proclaimed the Gospel according to John 17 in which Jesus prays that "*they may be one*". "*We are many parts, we are all one body*" at the Offertory and "*One Bread, One Body*" at Communion and closing with "*Companions on the Journey*" remind us all that we are just that. And that reminder becomes even clearer when events as mentioned above strike us as a people. I for one feel the security of being here together when I see the anxiety and fear experienced by our neighbors in the south as the "monster storm" approached. Even as they huddled in Shelters, they were not alone but gathered strength from one another.

The June Newsletter was mostly an Obituary for several of our community that passed on so recently before that writing. Today we must advise you of two more deaths that we have experienced since then. The Picnic had just ended, all of our guests had gone on their way and we checked our Answer Machine and there was a message from a Funeral Director in Utica and when returning the call learned that DAVID FONES, one of our men who had been in a Utica Nursing Home for a few weeks, had passed on. David was a friendly man who had been with us shortly less than a year and had suffered from several falls but seemed to be doing quite well and in fact we had planned to visit him the following week.

David's passing was quite a surprise to us and we extend our sympathy to his family and friends. Father Jones officiated at David's Burial Service in a local Cemetery where he is interred with his wife. Rest in Peace David. We'll miss you.

On August 11, we were stunned and saddened to receive word that our JOHN LYNCH had succumbed to an illness that came on quite suddenly in the Spring. We shouldn't have been so stunned and maybe we weren't but it was impossible to realize that John was gone. He has been such a lively member of our Acres Community. It was only Easter Sunday at our Resurrection Mass that John came down the center aisles sprinkling us with the Easter Water just blessed by our celebrant Father Jones. John was a strong presence in our Chapel congregation, leading us in parts of the Stations of the Cross every Lent as well as helping in many ways in the Chapel. Over in the Dining Room he was always so friendly and full of fun as he cleaned the tables after our meals while sharing pleasantries and funny stories or helping as a dish washer man. He was a fair haired Irishman and proud of his Irish Ancestry. He was always ready for some Irish music. John was very lively and much younger than his 60 years. We have a photo of him making an angel in the snow!

John would leave in May each year and join his brother in Brooklyn for the summer, calling us often to check on us and then returning in September. While in Brooklyn, John helped the local Catholic Parish along with his brother Joe. It's the way John was - always wanting to help.

Sometime in May he began experiencing difficulties and then extreme pain in his neck and back and was diagnosed with throat and bone cancer. His pain was excruciating at times and he was back and forth to medical appointments until finally he was relieved to an extent of some of the acute pain when he had surgery. From then on John was either in hospital or James Square Nursing Home which was close to his good friend Mary who lived nearby and could check on him daily. John was an example to all of us as he waited out his final days cheerfully, living his faith to the end. He was close to his friend Jesus and to Mary, Jesus Blessed Mother. He knew he was on his way home and demonstrated this to all. Dave Pasinski visited John often and was very inspired by his spirit. John's brother Joe was with him the last 10 days of his life, being able to stay right there in his room at the Nursing Home. John's cremains went back to Brooklyn with Joe.

On August 15 we celebrated John Lynch's life at our Holy Day Mass of Mary's Assumption into Heaven, a day John would have approved of as he had great devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. Rest in Peace John, your Acres Family misses you.

Peg McCarthy

Post Script : September 28.

Early in September we received a telephone call concerning the whereabouts of a former Unity Acres resident, JOE AUSTIN. Joe hadn't been at the Acres for many years, but his sister thought that we might know, perhaps, where he was. This call led to a search through old correspondence, files, more phone calls, an internet search, and finally, sadly, an online obituary published on the Rome Sentinel website: Joe had passed away at Colonial Park Nursing Home on March 22 at the age of 74.

Joe was one of our old-timers. He had a good and generous heart and a strong faith, but struggled mightily with alcoholism. Although he came to the Acres on many, many occasions, beginning in 1971 and up until the early 2000s, he found it impossible to remain here more than a few days or weeks at time. We will pray in Thanksgiving for the peace Joe now enjoys, which so often eluded him during his earthly life.

PRAYER - SEPTEMBER 2017: THE CROSS OF JESUS

"WE SHOULD GLORY IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST..."
(Gal. 6:1-4--EXALTATION OF THE CROSS)
...BY WHOM WE WERE SAVED AND DELIVERED"

MYSTERY: SPIRIT OF GOD, AS WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR MANY GIFTS OF GRACE, WE LOOK TO YOU TO DEEPEN OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE CROSS, THE VERY GIFT OF JESUS HIMSELF AS HE HUNG ON THE CROSS. PLEASE STRENGTHEN US TO BE WITNESSES OF ITS POWER - THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE. MAY THE CROSS BRING US TO HELP CARRY ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS.

HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD! BY THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION, REPLACE OUR FEARS, SADNESS AND SORROW WITH OUR TRUST AND IN GRATITUDE: THE SAVIOR LIVES!

"HE IS RISEN - HE IS NOT HERE.
BEHOLD THE PLACE WHERE THEY LAID HIM" Matthew 28

"O LORD, WE ADORE YOU AND WE PRAISE YOU
FOR BY YOUR CROSS, YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD".