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Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

A few days ago on May 15 the church celebrated the feast of St. Isidore, Patron of Farmers. The Mass starts as we pray, *Lord God, all creation is yours, and you call us to serve you by caring for the gifts that surround us. May the example of St. Isidore urge us to share our food with the hungry and to work for the salvation of humankind.* In the Gospel of Matthew we are directed to be good stewards of our land and resources. And here at the Acres on this exceptionally beautiful day, sunny, pleasantly warm and blue sky, I hear the sounds of the men working on the lawns while preparations are being made to ready the garden for sowing seeds to grow our vegetables. The men in the kitchen are preparing supper for us -- can you imagine cooking meals for 77--79 people!! Talk about sharing food with the hungry! This being done three times a day, seven days a week! We give thanks for God's many blessings on us here in our little community.

A month ago we celebrated 41 years of life here at Unity Acres with a delightful dinner at Le Moyne Manor in Liverpool. Nearly three hundred supporters of this Community founded by Father Ray McVey gathered to celebrate Father Ray's and Kate Stanton's lives as well as Carol and Jerry Berrigan who have been a part of this ministry since its start. We are grateful to many for their parts in arranging this most enjoyable evening. Le Moyne Manor was chosen for this special occasion because of its ministry under Father Peter Young of the Albany Diocese who saw a need among addicted inmates who had no support system when released and started support programs throughout New York State from Brooklyn to Buffalo -- *THE*, Treatment, Housing & Employment, the Employment being at Le Moyne Manor. Father Young as our keynote speaker made us aware of the needs out there and what has been done so far to meet them.

So many thanks are in order to those who worked so hard to make this dinner such a wonderful celebration. Kris and Dan you did it again. Dick Ford, you provided us with lovely piano music. And our several women came through again with week after week of planning and mailings. Too many names to mention but you know who you are and how much we appreciate and love you. Also to Bob for his handcrafted prizes. And to Le Moyne Manor and its many workers, we say thank-you for a delicious meal and for your hard work in serving three hundred diners. We also note here that nearly thirty of us from the Acres again enjoyed our

bus trip to the dinner with our very able driver Cindy of the Sandy Creek School District!

In our April Newsletter, Father Jones began to describe the transformation taking place in our Sacred Heart Chapel here at the Acres. On February 3, the day after Father's 50th Anniversary of Ordination, several of our men began the work of renovating our beloved Chapel. This project included removing old wall paper, painting the walls, woodwork and ceilings, taking up the pews and bringing them over to the "A" Building work shop, removing the dark stain and refinishing them in their natural wood grain, repairing the floors and installing new floor tiles and now about to reinstall the rest of the pews in the north section of the Chapel, the south section having been ready for Palm Sunday and Easter. Ten men took on this project and we are so very proud of them and appreciative of their most professional work. Like the *workers in the vineyards (Mt.20)*, some of these men put in many more hours than others, but this was a cooperative effort with many hands doing much work. The men are proud of their work, as well they should be. They have been a blessing to the Chapel and we pray the Chapel has been a blessing to them.

The windows are another story. We realize that they should be replaced both for aesthetic purposes but more importantly for energy efficiency. But for now they are not factored in our budget.

To celebrate the renewal of the Chapel, during June the month of the Sacred Heart, we are planning a Rededication on Wednesday June 16 with a Mass at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon followed by Dinner with our men in the Dining Room at 5 pm.

We invite you to celebrate with us on this holy occasion.

Peg McCarthy

What is Unity Acres?

Founded in 1969 in an old Oswego County TB Sanitarium by Fr. Ray McVey, Unity Acres continues its mission of sharing a home with formerly homeless men. Fr. Ray envisioned a place where men could seek refuge for a day or a lifetime. These homeless men now have a home where they live, work, contribute as they are able, and form a community. A caring staff and the contributions of a wide network of supporters continue the work.

MAY 2010 PRAYER - PENTECOST

“COME, HOLY SPIRIT! FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR PEOPLE.
SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND WE WILL BE RE-CREATED,
AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.”

-Pentecost Prayer

GRACIOUS GOD, YOU ARE THE SPIRIT OF LOVE,
PEACE, WISDOM, JOY AND COURAGE.
YOUR INSPIRATION LED TO THE START OF OUR HOME HERE,
AND HAS SUSTAINED US FOR THESE 41 YEARS.
AS WE PRAISE AND THANK YOU, WE PRAY.

*POUR OUT YOUR SPIRIT ON US AGAIN. HELP US RESPOND
EAGERLY TO YOUR INSPIRATION. STRENGTHEN US IN
DOING GOOD AND IN OUR STRUGGLES AGAINST THE FORCES
OF EVIL. THEY ARE MANY, THEY ARE STRONG.
ALONE, WE CANNOT PREVAIL, BUT YOU WILL EMPOWER US.
UNITE US, HOLY SPIRIT, HERE AT UNITY ACRES.
MAY WE TRULY BE THE BODY OF CHRIST. AMEN.*

“But when He comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will guide you to
all truth.” Jn.16:13

Father Bob Jones