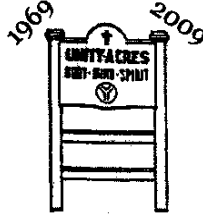


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40th Anniversary

September 1, 2009

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

Thank-You Lord for Your Blessings on (us): As the congregation of close to two hundred assembled, these were the words of our call to worship. We were led in song by Mary Agnes and Jan. And now we were about to celebrate our annual outdoor Mass, this year in continuation of our 40th Anniversary festivities. The day was *hot* with temperatures hovering near 90 but no one seemed to complain. The crowning event of the season has so quickly come and gone—our annual summer picnic.

For weeks our men had been enthusiastically cleaning, painting, gardening and mowing and generally sprucing up Unity Acres in anticipation of our friends and benefactors gathering for our annual outdoor Mass and Picnic. The following note reflects the sentiments of so many of those who attended our celebration: ... *we attended your great day Sunday. Beautiful Mass, lovely music and wonderful picnic! The fellowship and food were outstanding. What a lovely and peaceful day. Again, Thank-you. P.S. ... Doug and his kitchen crew did another outstanding job.*

Our grounds and buildings never looked lovelier in the warm summer sunshine! Father Jones celebrated Mass with a backdrop of heavily blooming Rose

of Sharon, Sunflowers and Petunias. The grass was mowed and trimmed to perfection. Again this year Jim McCarthy and his family so aptly and graciously provided the music and led the congregation in spirited song, setting the pace for this lovely Mass.

After Mass we proceeded to a beautifully decorated dining room laden with an abundance of food—many of the vegetables were carefully and tenderly raised in our own garden.

Both the staff and our men were overwhelmed and thrilled to see so many old and new friends as well as family members come to join us at this annual picnic celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

All the efforts and enthusiasm of the men resulted in maybe our best picnic ever! To all of you who were able to join us, thank-you... To those who were unable to attend, you were with us in spirit.

Loretta Dickhout

* * * *

Back as far as May and June preparations were made, meetings with staff, referring to notes from previous years this year we planned for 350 people. As the date of the picnic drew closer, both the kitchen and dining area became a flurry of activity. Each cook and kitchen helper were given specific assignments— e.g. making salads, prepping and chopping vegetables, cooking eggs, sharing recipes amongst each other and in the meantime stocking up on our barbeque meats and supplies. Finally the big day arrived.

The barbequing began at 6 am— husking the corn from a local Amish farm, setting up the buffet table, flowers being arranged and setting up the dessert table as guests brought in these decadent goodies as well as soda and water... Just after the closing hymn at Mass, people started to line up to partake of our bounty—hot dogs, hamburgers, barbequed chicken, Italian sausage with peppers and onions, corn on the cob, baked beans, various salads and dishes, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables. We consider this as one of our special days at Unity Acres and I and the entire kitchen staff look forward every year to presenting our very best efforts. I am very grateful to having this position here. I love my work and I love cooking for the men. It was a privilege and a pleasure to prepare this special meal for friends and benefactors.

Doug Stevenson

September (Labor Day) Prayer: Work

“So the creation ... was completed. And God... rested from His work of creation.” Gen 2: 1 and 3

“All Your works will thank You, Lord!” Psalm 145: 10

As we ponder the dignity of human labor, Creator God, we pray. We give thanks for the marvels and beauty of Your works, gifts to all of us. We ask You, Lord, to be with us in our work and to give work to all Your people. May it be for Your honor and glory, and the good of all.

“Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as for the Lord.” Col 3: 23

“He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.” Phil 1: 6

Creator God, You bless us with Your works. Your Spirit empowers us to work. We give thanks for the wonderful work here at Unity Acres, for these forty years. We pray You continue to “prosper the work of our hands.”

We pray too for an end to all abuse and injustice in the work place; for healing of the wounds of rampant unemployment; for honorable and productive work for all. We ask Your blessing upon all human labor, even as we give You thanks and praise. Amen.

Saint Joseph the Worker, pray for us!

Father Robert Jones