



UNITY ACRES  
P.O. BOX 153  
ORWELL, NEW YORK 13426  
TEL: 315 298-6215  
FAX: 315 298-5356

May 28, 2008

Dear Friends of Unity Acres:

Bill Spurrier and Peg McCarthy have shared tea together many evenings over the years in what is now known as the Meeting Room, but was once part of Carol Guthrie's 'suite' here at Unity Acres. We reminisce about those years enjoying tea with Carol as well as building and sharing friendship. Carol's room was always open - the men were free to come in and talk around the table - a basket of hard candy always available at the door.

Carol insisted we drink our tea out of a proper cup: "Never drink tea out of a mug." As we gather in the evening over our tea ... and sometimes cookies, we remember so fondly those times with Carol and listening to stories of the Acres past. Carol was such a presence to our men. She came to Unity Acres as a volunteer in 1987; until then she had been living in Lafayette with her husband Bob. After his death in the VA Hospital in Syracuse, she decided to give the rest of her life in service at Unity Acres. Carol knew of the existence of Unity Acres many years prior to dedicating her life to those with alcoholism, drug abuse and homelessness here in Orwell, NY. Carol spent many years in many capacities, benefiting Unity Acres each day in driving, receiving donations, listening to men with their personal problems, helping with personal needs (a hammer, a screwdriver, light bulb, candy, cigarettes, etc.) with heartfelt giving. We lost Carol four years ago, but her spirit still remains with us this very day.

As we reminisce we remind each other of Spaz, Carol's cat and of the time Bill took Spaz to the vet's office for a check-up and he 'disappeared' while waiting in the examination room. After a frantic search by Bill and the technicians, Spaz was found to have crawled up into one of the drawers. As Bill would embellish on that story, how the three of us would laugh. Spaz would sit in Carol's lounge chair with his arm on the armrest and listen intently to our chatter. A couple of years ago, Bill B. occupied the adjacent room and would tease us about the noise his neighbors were making while they gathered for tea.

The years have passed - as time goes by - and Bill and Peg occasionally still enjoy their tea time. Sometimes Father Jones or one or two of the men might join us. We reminisce and remember. Soon we hear the night watch begin their rounds. A stop at the door, "everything alright in there?" It's time to end our tea for 2 ... or 3 or 4, until another evening when we can gather once again for our evening tea ritual.

Bill Spurrier  
Peg McCarthy

## Prayer I: Sacred Heart of Jesus

(The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. We are blessed here at Unity Acres to have a consecrated place of prayer and worship. It is fittingly named Sacred Heart Chapel.)

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

—Matthew 11, 28-30 (Feast of the Sacred Heart)

“O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine.” We pray to you for mercy. Many hearts today are hearts of stone. The malice of hardened hearts in turn crushes the hearts of many. May we all heed Your message: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” Countless hearts are lonely, afraid, weary, heavy. We beg the healing love of Your Sacred Heart to transform ours and make them like your own.

Father, we honor the heart of your Son broken by our cruelty, yet symbol of love’s triumph, pledge of all that we are called to be. Teach us to see Christ in the lives we touch, to offer him living worship by love-filled service to our brothers and sisters. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. — Mass of the Sacred Heart

## Prayer II: God’s Gift of the Earth

Bless our farmers and all who work the land.

“Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, that bear grain... and fruit - and it was done. So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what He saw.”

—Genesis 1, 11-12

Lord God, we thank You for the beauty of our land at Unity Acres, and Saint Francis Farm. We thank you for the earth and all the plants which delight the eye and give us food. The rolling hills, sparkling waters, fields plowed and furrowed; trees now in their splendor - all gifts of Your love.

Bless, we pray, all of our farms, forests, fields and gardens. Bless all who tend these gifts of Your love. May their diligent labor bring forth beauty, and food for all, that none will be hungry. Move us to serve and respect the marvelous gifts to use them well and share them with all.

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 Saint Isidore urge us to share our food with the hungry and to work for the salvation of all. —Feast of Saint Isidore, Farmer (May 15th)

Father Robert Jones