



“Open the Windows”
2008

Unity Acres
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July 6, 2008

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

It is a fine, warm Sunday evening in Orwell. Just south of the brow of the low hill on which our Saint Martin de Porres Cemetery is located flows a little stream formally – but not too poetically – named

Tributary # 3 of Trout Brook. Looking north from the vantage point of a set of glider chairs a few feet from the stream bank you can survey the Unity Acres property: The Star Building, the North Wing, B Building and some of the barns and out-lying buildings. A whiff of wood smoke from the wood boiler which is in service even now, in order to provide hot water for the kitchen and dining hall. In the stillness of a peaceful Sunday afternoon, the only sounds are flowing water, chirping insects (Crickets?) and bird-songs: the per-chik-o-ree of the goldfinches, and the cue cue cue of the cardinals. Close to the stream bank are banks of perennial plants that bloom at different times during the year: a few whose names I know and remember are myrtle and yellow-flag iris, the day-lilies that are about to come into flower any day now and the Joe-Pye weed that comes into bloom a little later on in the summer. Today I saw a Turk’s cap lily I’ve never noticed here before. The air is fresh and sweet, and all around is green.

And so the grounds and the gardens are especially beautiful just now. Flowers are in bloom and the various vegetables and the lawns have been growing quite well this year. With adequate rains, there has been little need to water the plants. The grounds and the vegetable gardens and the flower beds and the cemetery are meticulously cared for. A lot of labor, time and attention is being expended, and it shows.

All this is to encourage anyone who has not visited Unity Acres recently, or perhaps ever, to do so this summer. Our Annual Picnic is on Sunday, August 17. Mass begins at Noon, and a Picnic luncheon is served thereafter. All are welcome. Please save the date and join us then.

Stephen Dickhout

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Unity Acres, I wish to extend a HUGE thank you to so many who have responded so quickly and generously to our “Open the Windows” Party Invitation. As soon as we accumulate sufficient funds we will begin the process of replacing as many windows as possible in our aging buildings. We will as well proceed with other greatly needed improvements that will enhance living conditions for our residents. By means of upcoming newsletters, we will keep you posted on our progress.

Please know that we are most grateful for your generous support to the ministry of Unity Acres.

God’s Choicest Blessings on each of you.

Sister Monica Nortz, CSJ

Board President

Summer Prayer: Freedom

"If you obey My Teaching... you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free." --Jn 8: 31, 34

O God, we thank You for our nation's freedom we celebrate on each Independence day. Forgive us, we pray, for any abuse of that freedom or denial of it to others. May we never 'declare independence' from you. Teach us, show us your truth, that we may be truly free.

We live in a world, O God, of falsehood and false values so contrary to the truth of Your Gospel. The difference between freedom and license has been blurred. Holy Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may know the truth.

We pray: Rescue us from the 'snarer's
(Satan's) net' (Psalm 91: 3).

Free us, O God, from slavery to:

- Our own prideful self-deception,
- All unjust imprisonment,
- Addictions to alcohol, drugs, power, violence, so worshipped in our culture; noise, speed, materialism, and bigotry.

May we serve You always in truth and freedom for all people and nations under the yoke of tyranny: "Let the pain of our struggle for freedom

be endured with all the strengths of our lives, with the dawn shall come our deliverance from the power of greed and wealth. The sun is rising, freedom is coming! Hope soon shall flower in the birth of justice for all." Amen

*From G. Norbert,
Weston Priory.
"The Sun is Rising.*

Father Robert Jones

We ask your prayers for the happy repose of John Anthony Berrigan, Timothy James Capone and John Salanger, all of whom died recently.

John Salanger was a former resident of Unity Acres who had stayed here for several months beginning in 2003. John died at Van Duyn on June 19, at the age of 56.

John Berrigan is the brother of Jerry Berrigan, brother-in-law of Carol, very dear and dedicated friends of the Acres. John died at Van Duyn in Syracuse on June 18 at the age of 94.

Tim Capone is the son of our dear, dear friend Mark Capone. Tim died at the age of 47 on June 20, and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Both Tim and John Berrigan's funerals were celebrated at St Lucy's in Syracuse in the presence of numerous friends and family.

Please remember these men, and please keep the Capone, Berrigan and Salanger families in your thoughts and prayers.

