



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

January 30, 2006

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

It has become a custom with our January newsletters these last several years, to begin the new year with a word of thanks to all of you who receive this newsletter, who think about the needs of the men of Unity Acres, who offer up a prayer for the benefit of the Acres, who send along a donation of clothing, a word of encouragement, or who assist the men in any way, tangibly or intangibly... It is through you that God is providing for us, as He has done for more than 35 years, and we are grateful.

So we offer thanks to you, and *for* you. (Thanks and prayers for our benefactors are offered at every Mass celebrated at our Chapel at Unity Acres.) The psalm at Mass this morning was the Ninety-fifth Psalm, which as Father Jones reminded us, the very Psalm -- the invitatory -- with which Morning Prayer, Matins, begins: "Come, let us sing to the Lord, and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us. Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving and sing joyful songs to the Lord..."

The Psalmist knew that ingratitude is constant possibility, and includes in this psalm a warning: "Do not grow stubborn, as your fathers did in the wilderness, when at Meribah and Massah, they challenged me and provoked, although they had seen all of my works."

For the Israelites, "all of my works" refers to God's liberation of His people from bondage in Egypt, and to his miraculous provisioning of their needs in desert of Sinai. For ourselves, God has worked, through you, our benefactors, to provide a home and community for many hundreds of men, over the years, miraculously provisioning all of our needs.

*Help us Lord, to remember all your benefits.  
O Lord, give us grateful hearts.*

Steve Dickhout



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Again we are gathered together through this newsletter to praise and worship our Lord Jesus Christ and to celebrate His wonderful gift to us of salvation. Can anyone think of a greater gift that has ever been bestowed on them? I know that I can't. Everyday seems to bring me closer to Him who created me for His work. I finally understand why I am here on this Earth, and that is to do the will of the Father.

When I first heard the Good News about Jesus I was skeptical, as were thousands of others I'm sure, however, through much prayer and study I have come to know my Savior in such a way that I could not imagine spending a single minute outside of His authority, guidance, or presence. I pray for all of the world's people, that they too would come to know Him who created us, that they could know the peace and joy He gives.

I leave you this month with a passage of scripture that is very dear to me for it was the very first passage I memorized when I became saved:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, so that whosoever should believe in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

May the love and the peace of God Almighty be with you all,

Bill Bogart

## January 2006 Prayer

"O God, a thousand years in Your sight are as yesterday ... or as a watch in the night. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart." --Psalm 90, 4&12

Creator God, another year has begun. How quickly the years pass! As we look back upon 2005, we give thanks for the many blessings you have given us at Unity Acres. You have showered Your graces upon us. We have known Your providence through the goodness and kindness of so many. Your Spirit has empowered us to live in community, without which this could not be a home, of peace and hospitality. We thank you for every moment, every event, of caring and sharing; of joy and laughter, of celebration.

"Why do the nations rage, and the peoples utter folly? The kings of the earth rise up, and the princes conspire together against the Lord and against his anointed." --Psalm 2, 1-2

Yet we know that 2005 has been a year of great tragedy for countless people. As Your Son could calm the sea with but a word, we pray that the forces of nature will cease to rage.

We pray even more intensely, that the rage of nations against nations, of rulers against You and Your Son will cease. May Justice and Peace finally reign.

We place this year 2006 before You, O God. Help us to live it well --with wisdom of heart.

Father Bob Jones