



UNITY ACRES
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Transfiguration Sunday,
August 6, 2006

Dear Friends of UNITY ACRES,

We are enjoying a nearly perfect mid-summer day in Orwell today, after a rainy and humid late July. The sky is mostly blue with a few fair-weather clouds here and there. There is a pleasant breeze as well.

We have had a good summer here at the Acres, with a few long deferred projects now nearing completion. Our last newsletter made mention of two of these projects in particular: painting of the buildings, and reconstruction of the Bell Tower.

A fund-raiser committee, chaired by Elaine Crough, has put out a mailing to members of the clergy and to congregations throughout the Central New York area to defray expenses for the necessary tools and materials. Thanks be to God, this appeal was met with a most generous response. We have purchased 80 gallons of semi-gloss white paint, several more gallons of green paint for the foundations, rented a 40-foot cherry picker, and purchased a 40-foot ladder as part of this undertaking.

Visitors will be really impressed to see the bright white buildings as they come along the last curve on Route 2 as they approach the Acres. To date, the painting of A Building, B Building and the North Wing is nearly complete. All of the painting has been done by a team of Unity Acres residents.

Visitors will also notice that the Bell Tower in front of our Sacred Heart Chapel has been rebuilt. We had received word from Frank Ellinger some time ago that the original tower had begun to shake and sway and tremble whenever he would ring the bell. So our long-time practice of ringing the chapel bell has been abandoned for some time now. Last year, in the course of the first attempts at making some repairs, the tower collapsed. (The Celtic Cross designed by John Lusby, and situated now on the road to our cemetery, was constructed from materials salvaged from this original tower.)

The concrete pad on which the tower sits was

reconstructed during the earlier part of the summer this year, and now the tower itself is standing, and the chapel bell is in place. We plan to ring the bell, and dedicate this new tower, on the day of our annual picnic later this month, on Sunday, August 20th.

The gardens here at the Acres are approaching their peak; and our great kitchen staff have been making good use of the greens, broccoli, radishes, summer squash and other veggies, as they have come into season. We expect that the tomatoes and sweet corn should be coming on any time now, and certainly in time for the picnic.

There have been some changes in terms of our staff, Aly Wane and John Lusby have left the Acres since the mailing of the last newsletter. Aly has joined the staff of Syracuse Peace Council, and is now living in Syracuse. And the attractions of the West have proven too strong for John Lusby, who has returned to California. Bill Bogart intends leaving later this week. We offer each of them gratitude for their past efforts and contributions, and our best hopes and wishes.

Lastly, a note of congratulations to our own Father Bob Jones, who was honored late this spring, with an Ignatian Award for Community Service, presented to him by his Alma Mater, LeMoyne College on June 4. Well done, Father Jones!

---Steve Dickhout

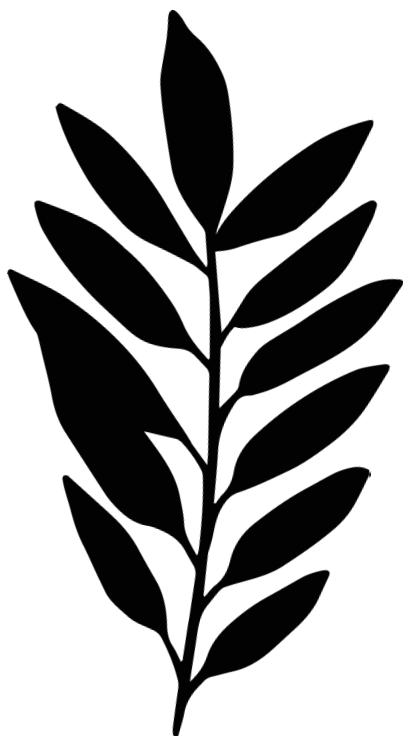


PLEASE pray for the repose of the souls of ERNEST GRIFFEN and WILLIAM KIMBALL.

We learned of Ernie Griffen's passing by means of a phone message from his wife Tina. Ernie had been a resident here at Unity Acres beginning in April 1996, and had met the love of his life, Tina, while he resided here. Ernie and Tina were married in Minetto, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and subsequently moved out west. We were saddened to hear of his passing, and will pray for him and for Tina. Ernie died on July 11.

William Kimball died on July 20. He had been a longtime resident of the Acres, first having moved into the Acres in 1971. Bill was a jovial man, easily moved to laughter. He had stayed in the Annex building for many years, until his health began to fail, and he was admitted first to the VA hospital in Syracuse, and later to the Pontiac Nursing Home in Oswego. Bill's funeral was held here at the Acres, and he was buried in our Cemetery.

Again, please pray for Ernie and Bill, for their eternal, and the consolation of their friends and family.



Prayer: August 2006, Summertime

(The Annual Unity Acres Mass and Picnic will be Sunday, August 20 at Noon. It is a celebration of thanks and appreciation for the countless supporters, past and present, of the Acres.)

"The Lord Himself will give His benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before Him, and prepare the way of His steps."

—Ps 85, 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

We give thanks to God for bringing Unity Acres into being. We thank you for the many who helped Father McVey and Kate Stanton at the beginning, in the early years. We give thanks for the many friends who have been and are so generous in so many ways.

—For those who have given time, talent, energy and material goods;

—For all who have held us in prayer and in their hearts;

—For individuals and communities who have sustained us with financial support;

—For the labors of our men, to maintain our buildings and grounds and gardens.

Above all, to You, o God, Who guide all of us and all works to continue Unity Acres.

May it always be, through Your grace and the goodness of people, a home where there is Unity -- of Body, Mind and Spirit.

Amen.

Father Bob Jones