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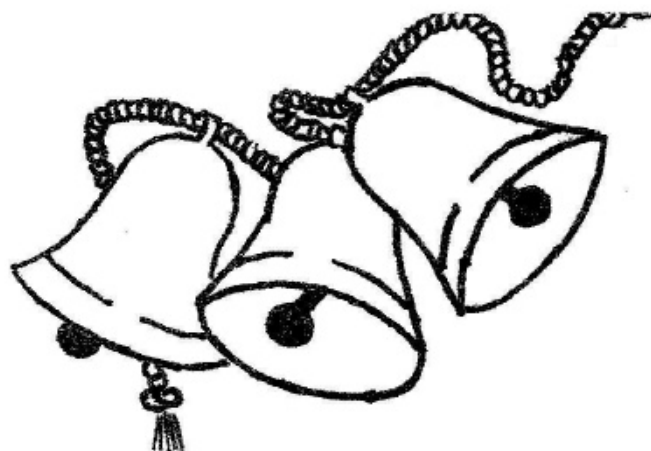
CALL TO WORSHIP—ANNUAL OUTDOOR MASS & PICNIC

After nearly two years of silence, our “Call To Worship” bell on “B” Building is no longer silent. The men completed the new Bell Tower and reinstalled our Bell and it rang out for our annual outdoor Mass.

The weather forecast was not so great for our annual event, but the men set up the chairs and altar and the skies were sunny, the grounds groomed to perfection, the buildings freshly painted shiny bright white, the garden flourishing and the aroma of bar-b-que chicken, sausages, hamburgs and hot dogs drifting across the grounds while a feast was being prepared in our Star Building.

“Come to the feast of heaven and earth, come to the Table of Plenty, God will provide for all that we need, here at the table of plenty.” We opened our Mass with Jim leading us in this song as we prepared to listen to the Scriptures from 2nd Kings and the sixth chapter of John which tells us of the story of the little boy sharing his lunch with the crowd. *“They shall eat and there shall be some left over”* from the 1st reading and during the our Responsorial Psalm we respond *“The hand of the Lord feeds us, he*

answers all our needs” and John’s Gospel reminds us *“He distributed as much as they wanted to those reclining.”*



Mass proceeded and soon it was time to approach our other table of plenty, our table of Eucharist, and as we do, the heavens opened up and we are in the midst of a heavy downpour of rain! All run into “B” Building to our Sacred Heart Chapel where we eventually finish our Mass after Father Jones blesses the newly built Bell Tower and the Bell peals again this time in thanksgiving. We love God’s sense of humor. Last year after the Picnic, we had made some notes and suggestions for the next year and one was that we should invite/encourage the people

to visit our Chapel! Well everyone did this year, forced in by the downpour which lasted only those 10-15 minutes. Weather was not a factor as we then proceeded to our Dining Room to our Tables of Plenty. Dessert tables lined up and overflowing with brownies, cookies of all sorts and decorated cakes of all flavors (one decorated with our Call to Worship theme) and then the main tables of meats mentioned above along with baked beans, salads of all varieties, even a bowl of lentils, and rolls, pickles, soft drinks, fruit and then more cookies and fruits. People sitting at rows of decorated tables in our mess hall or outdoors on picnic tables and animated conversations coming from the dining room and picnic area behind the North Wing, followed by folks enjoying the grounds by walking down to the creek or to visit our lovely St. Martin de Porres Cemetery, while others were gathered to enjoy a hayride drawn by one of our tractors.

Every year we proclaim that this was our best one yet and yes, we believe this was our best one yet. We thank everyone who contributes to this wonderful place, this holy place. The men work hard to prepare it for this annual event. It is their way of saying thank-you to you our wonderful supporters. Without you, without your prayers, contributions and help, this home, this Table of Plenty, would not be possible.

Peg McCarthy



PRAYER – SEPTEMBER 2006

“Lord, hear the prayer of those who gather at Your table of unity and love. By doing the work You have entrusted to us, may we sustain our life on earth and build up Your Kingdom in faith.”

-- Mass for the Blessing of Human Labor, September 4 (Labor Day)

“Lord, let Your work be seen by your servants, and Your glory by their children”

--Psalm 90,16

Loving God, we celebrate the dignity of just, honest human labor. All who are able to work give You thanks; We praise You for the works of Your creation.

Many, however, cannot work; many are unemployed. Countless others toil in cruel, unjust, inhumane conditions. We pray You rescue them from this vicious cycle of poverty. Change the hearts and minds - and laws and policies - Of greedy and powerful rulers, leaders and legislators.

Send Your Spirit upon us, that we may speak out - and work - Against unjust labor practices. May all people enjoy the fruits of just labor.

“Prosper the work of our hands, O Lord; Prosper the work of our hands.” Psalm 90,17