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November 21, 2007

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

In the news recently we hear about the weakening dollar, high oil prices, and the decline of the housing market. The anxiety is felt by all income groups, some more than others no doubt. I heard an economic commentary on the radio the other day, the narrator mentioned that it would take "a miracle" for the U.S.

economy to be back on track in three to four months from now.

Here at Unity Acres we witness miracles all the time. Lives are transformed before our very eyes.

In June of 2006 I stopped to buy some gas at Wilson Farms on the north side of Syracuse. As I walked out of the store I noticed a man rummaging through the outside trash can. As I got closer I recognized him as Mike M., a former resident of Unity Acres. Mike was looking for empty cans and bottles so he could cash them in and buy a beer. I touched him on the arm and said, "hi Mike do you remember me?"

"Sure, you're Mark from Unity Acres," he replied.

After chatting for awhile, I urged Mike to come back to the Acres. He said he would think about it and call us when he was ready.

Mike did return to us in March of this year. This past summer, on a few occasions, Mike's family drove up to the Acres to visit him. We were so pleased to meet them all! It was such a great sight to see all of them together as they walked the grounds here. Mike was healthy again, in body mind and spirit.

Mike has also been a great asset in our kitchen. The men really look forward to his weekend culinary specialties.

I thank the Lord for Mike's progress, and feel privileged that I was able to witness this true Miracle In Action.

Mark Baker

Prayer: November 2007 -- All Saints -- All Souls

“Rejoice not so much that the evil spirits obey you,
as that your names are written in heaven.” – Luke 10, 20.

“We are all called to be saints, St. Paul says, so we might as well get over our fear
of the name, (and) the fact that there is some of the saint in all of us.”

– Dorothy Day, Selected Writings, 1949

Litany of Everyday Saints

Drivers of the OCO buses, Medicaid taxis,
WE BLESS YOU!

Paper Carriers and Post-Office workers,
WE BLESS YOU!

Those who mow the lawns, and shovel snow,
WE BLESS YOU!

Those who plow the roads, and our driveways
WE BLESS YOU!

Nightwatchmen,
WE BLESS YOU!

Librarians and men who staff our Library,
WE BLESS YOU!

Cooks and kitchen staff,
WE BLESS YOU!

All who answer the phone with good cheer,
WE BLESS YOU!

All who fill potholes and handle our trash,
WE BLESS YOU!

All who tend and care for the animals,
WE BLESS YOU!

All who bring music to our chapel,
WE BLESS YOU!

Gentle donors, friends, and benefactors,
WE BLESS YOU and
WE THANK YOU!

All you saints of God,
Pray for us!

“The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and
no torment shall touch them.” – Wisdom 3: 1

God our creator, we entrust the souls of the departed
to Your mercy. We especially commend all those in our
Unity Acres family, and all buried here at St. Martin
de Porres Cemetery. May they rest in your peace.

Thanksgiving

“Give thanks to the Lord, for His love is everlasting!
Repeat these words in praise
to the Lord...” – Psalm 107, 1&2

“What return can I offer God for all His goodness
to me!” – Psalm 116, 12

We at Unity Acres give You thanks,
O God, for so many gifts in 2007:

–the goodness, support and encouragement from so
many of our friends and benefactors;

–the many beautiful, bright days, and moonlit, starry
nights;

–the beauty of our gardens, buildings, lawns, and the
teamwork of the men to make it so;

–the brook singing its praise to you;

–our cemetery which silently witnesses the peace You give to those resting there;

–the presence of Jesus, watching over our home, in the tabernacle of our Sacred Heart Chapel;

–the hope You give to us: the healing power of Your love.

May we always return to give you thanks!

Father Robert Jones