



UNITY ACRES
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March 2005

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

It is late in evening of the Monday of Holy Week, as I am attempting to set out a few words for this month's newsletter, already regrettably late. The winter months always seem long to me; so it is a relief to know that spring is on its way - around the corner, or already here, if the calendar is to be believed! Yes, the snow banks are melting away, and we have noted that the daffodils planted in front of the main building here at Unity Acres have begun to sprout. We are expecting that five of our cows will freshen any day now, and are very much looking forward to seeing the new calves.

The arrival of the spring is always most welcome. So too, we anticipate the joy of the Lord's Resurrection at Easter: Mary Magdalene will find the stone that was placed to seal up Jesus' tomb has been rolled away. Soon she will meet the risen Lord.

Jesus' Resurrection will entail many profound consequences on the life of the community of believers that made up the early church. Let us allow the Resurrection of the Lord have real consequences in our own lives as we commit ourselves to peace at home and abroad, to living out the gospel in our daily lives, to sharing our goods with the poor, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless; to the completion of Jesus' kingdom within our hearts, if nowhere else.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem in triumph, but in days he is executed by the Roman occupation. A mocking inscription hangs above his head: "This is the King of the Jews." Soldiers jeer at him: But the full and true meaning of Jesus' kingship is revealed only when he is raised high on the cross.

Paul refers to the kingdom as a present reality: "Give thanks to the Father for having made you worthy to share the lot of the Saints in light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son." The kingdom of heaven - that strange kingdom that is both here and not-here, where the first shall be last, and the last shall be first - is at the heart of the preaching of Jesus. We know that he is no ordinary king, and his is no ordinary kingdom. Jesus has announced that his kingdom is an upside-down kingdom: it belongs to the poor and lowly, the King has "come not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

May the joy of the Resurrection be yours.

Prayer March 2005

Lord, that we may see!

“... You do not know where he comes from, yet he cured me of my blindness!” – John 9: 30

“Unless this man came from God, he would not be able to do a thing.” – John 9: 33

–Gospel, 4th Sunday of Lent

O God, giver of every good gift, help us to look to your Son Jesus,
the Light of the World. In this short remaining time of Lent,
of turning back to you, may we cry out to Jesus, Lord,
that we may see.

Open our eyes to:

--the beauty of you creation;

--the works of darkness, that we may resist them;

--the goodness in people everywhere, that we may encourage them and be encouraged;

--our suffering brothers and sisters, that we may look with compassion and assist them;

--the physically blind and the visually impaired, that we may respect and assist them;

--our need for spiritual vision and insight, so to believe, to hope, to love.

Jesus, Light of the World, grant that we may see!

