



UNITY ACRES
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June 7, 2004

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

Springtime is always a busy time of the year at the Acres and God has blessed us with beautiful weather to accomplish what needs to be done. Father Jones blessed the animals and gardens of St. Francis Farm, Rural Migrant Ministry and Unity Acres, and later celebrated mass at Unity Acres with Sr. Louise from RMM and Lorraine and Dan from St. Francis Farm in attendance.

On May 17 we had our annual "cattle drive" leading the cattle to summer pasture. This is always an exciting event and brings together many of our residents for a joint effort. The cows were very cooperative following Larry Oakes on his tractor with a trailer full of goodies. "Brownie", one of our steers, was a bit confused as he has never made the one mile trek through the woods to the pasture. He was hand led over and was very good about that. The calves on the other hand gave us a run for our money! Had there been any camcorders present we could have been top contenders for "America's Funniest Videos"! After realizing we could not outrun them, we sought the assistance of Leslie Herman (who is presently staying at the Acres with her family due to a house fire). She is an experienced cowhand and expertly devised four halters for the calves. We loaded them two at a time into our Chevy van and off we went. I'm still wondering what the neighbors were thinking as we drove by with two little calf faces peering through the window! With the help of able hands, all the cattle are happily munching on their new sprung grass. Thanks to all for team work well done!!

Mark Cobane has been hard at work repairing the baler and Mark Smith and Larry Oakes have been painting it. It will be a real blessing to have the baler in good working order once haying season arrives.

The planting in our garden is near completion. Ed Westman has planted potatoes as well as tending to his flowers (if you've been to Unity Acres and noticed the gorgeous flowers they're a credit to Ed's green thumb). By the way, Ed turned 81 this year and a day doesn't go by without seeing him in his gardens. We've planted peas, lettuce, Swiss chard, beets, various types of squash, broccoli, peppers and corn in the larger garden and with Fr. Jones' blessing, we should be in pretty good shape for veggies this year.

Larry Oakes also started Bela Nyiri's gardens while Bela was recuperating at Rosewood Heights Health Center. Bela came home to the Acres last week; he has always taken a lot of pride in his gardens. Thank you Larry for starting these gardens for Bela! Just another example of the brotherhood that lives on day to day at Unity Acres.

Laura Paddock

May has come and gone, seemingly in the blink of an eye; but it has been a productive month for us here at the Acres. Apart from the various activities that have been underway in planting the garden and in caring for our herd of cattle, two other long-awaited projects for the improvement of the Acres have been accomplished in recent weeks. First, we have had a new well drilled in order to be able to provide a more adequate supply of potable water. Some time ago we had received a recommendation from the Oswego County Health Department that we should have a second drilled well installed in order to provide a redundant supply of groundwater as an additional source of drinking water. It was a particularly urgent need in as much as there have been shortages in the water supply in past years, particularly during the hot summer months. Countless hours were spent in monitoring the flow of water from our old well in a sometimes futile attempt to balance supply with consumption, and in order to somehow entice cooperation from sometimes finicky equipment.

Consequently, arrangements were made last fall to have a new well drilled, with the actual drilling taking place in April. We were surely blessed to have very good results with the new well, which has an output of 30 gallons of water per minute. A new submersible pump and pump controls were installed in due course and on Friday we received final word from the Health Department that the water is free of impurities, and is therefore safe to drink. Additionally Charlie Morgan and Don Duprey have completed a water systems operator course that was offered by the Health Department this spring, giving further assurance as to the on-going safety of the water supply here at the Acres.

We have long used a pump located at alongside the creek which flows through our property to supply water for use in the laundry room and the several outdoor spigots which are useful to our gardeners. This three horse-power pump also supplies the water needs of the cattle and pigs. During the winter the pump which had been installed several years ago by the creek failed, and we were forced to resort to alternate means for supplying water to the laundry room and to the animals. In the days immediately following the failure of this pump, there was an at-least daily trek (most often it was Mark Baker and Steve Doupe, sometimes through waist-deep snow!) down to the pump house by the creek to check on and analyze the situation. In the end, after the installation of a new pump, new controls, new transformer, etc., thankfully, this inconvenience too, has been resolved and there is once again a working pump system in place by the creek.

On April 26th, shortly before leaving my home on Wart Road (next to the cow's summer pasture and to Saint Francis Farm), I received a telephone call from Charlie Morgan that the Hermans' house (our neighbors across the street) was on fire. By the time I arrived there were several fire companies set up along Route 2 and along Jerry Look Road, and the fire was not yet under control. I guess that there are no coincidences in life. Only a few days before we had decided to vacate the basement dorm in B Building in order to make some repairs during the summer months. Consequently there were seven empty beds, a separate sitting room and bathroom available to offer to the Herman family during the weeks that they will need to make necessary repairs to their home before they can move back into it. So Betty and Albert and their family have been with us since that time, a new experience for us here at the Acres, to be sure!, but certainly we are grateful that we had the means to lend a helping hand.

Steve Dickhout

June- Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
We rededicate our Sacred Heart Chapel to Jesus.

June 2004 Prayer
35th Anniversary Year

May 15th is the feast of St. Isidore the farmer. In that connection we have blessed the farms, flocks and fields of Unity Acres, St. Francis Farm and all the farms and farmers of our beautiful countryside.

“Lord God, all creation is yours and you call us to serve you by caring for the gifts that surround us. May the example of St. Isidore and St. Francis urge us to share food with the hungry and to work for the salvation of all- from the feast of St. Isidore.

We thank you for the fullness of life in this Easter/Spring season; for the beauty and abundance you give us. May we be gentle and reverent toward all your creatures, flocks, fields, people and all living things. May we share with gratitude what you have given us, especially with those most in need.”

Amen.
Alleluia!

Father Robert Jones

Please pray for the repose of the soul of JOHN W SCOTT, who passed away in Oswego on May 7th. He was 65 years old. John had been a resident of Unity Acres beginning in October 2001, but had been admitted to the Pontiac Nursing Home in July 2003. He often expressed his gratitude for being at the Acres, while he was here, and later, his regret at not being able to return, due to his declining health. Still, John always remained in touch with us here at Unity Acres, by way of Father Jones' visits to the Oswego nursing homes. We will remember your good nature, John.

REST IN PEACE.

God will always walk with you to help, guide, and restore you along the way. He will never run ahead or lag behind, he will guide your every step. He will never hide from you, turn his back on you or lose faith in you. When you are tired he will sit and rest with you, watch over you as you sleep.

If you fall, he will pick you up, if you weep, he will dry your tears. He holds your hand when the way gets dark to comfort you, and he shares all you feel. He will never betray you or lie to you, he will always love you and his mercy lives forever. If the time comes, you are too broken to walk, he will carry you, till you can stand on your own again. And when you cross over Jordan, he will with joy welcome you home.

No sin is too great that God cannot forgive. No one so lost that God cannot find. No chain so strong that God cannot break it. No life so ruined that God cannot repair. No heart so silent that God cannot make it sing again. No soul so dead God cannot revive. No trouble so deep that God cannot rescue. Nor storm so great that God cannot calm. No tear so painful that God cannot dry it. No body so broken that God cannot heal. No one so lonely that God cannot comfort. No one so saddened that God cannot make glad. No mountain so high that God cannot reach it. No night so dark that God cannot see. No valley so low that God cannot visit. No cry so quiet that God cannot hear. No life so shattered that God cannot fix it. No one so unimportant, for God loves us all.

Robert Koos