



Unity Acres
P O Box 153
Orwell NY 13426

November 27, 2022

Dear Friends of Unity Acres,

It's now the First Sunday of Advent, just after Thanksgiving, and a beautiful time of the year for connecting and re-connecting with family and friends. The trees have shed their colorful foliage, the autumn harvest has passed along with its sunny, cool days.

Loretta returned home a little over a month ago, in mid-October, from her much deserved and needed summer break. The Advent Wreath with its pink and purple candles has been set up in the Chapel.

This month we thought we'd be a bit nostalgic and include prayers and thoughts from our two former chaplains, Father McVey and Padre Jones.

Our first offering is from Father McVey's letter of September 1987. It's followed by Father Jones' prayer from our September 2006 newsletter.



We, as Church, as God's people, declare very loudly that we are not citizens here. We are a beloved people on pilgrimage. It is not wrong to need our brothers and sisters when we are sick or when the church burns down or when we get old and have no means of supporting ourselves. If we give all we have in our pilgrimage together God will provide for us when we are in need. We are a faith community opposed to the values of the world. Yes, the world teaches so-called responsibility which simply means secure yourself so you will have no need to depend on others. But doesn't Jesus tell us to receive with gratitude and share with abandon and His heavenly Father will provide the increase. "Be intent on things above." We seem to be mired in the things (the values) of the world. If we are intent on securing ourselves by a multiplicity of insurances, IRA's, clerical funds, etc. where is our faith? If we were intent on sharing it all would not God provide for us? Have we given in to the fears so rampant in our day? Insurance companies reap a harvest sown by fear. Are we a part of all that?

We are the people of God on pilgrimage – followers of the way. We are a people of faith and faith is not always practical. It doesn't make much sense to the world.

“Lord, hear the prayer of those who gather at Your table of unty 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



Wise words from our beloved Chaplains, two Champions of Peace and Justice, who cared deeply for our men. We miss them, may they rest in peace.

We wish all a Blessed Advent Season and a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year., and thank you for you care and support.

—Peg McCarthy,
for the Unity Acres Community