

~NAZARETH NEWS~

NAZARETH FARM
THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE
LITTLE BATTLE RUN / CENTER POINT, WV / 26339
AUTUMN NEWSLETTER * 1993
ISSUE #4

WEDDING WEEKEND AT NAZARETH FARM

by Sylvia Nieto

Picture this -- campsites scattered around the Farm, long lines at the outhouses, cars with license plates from Indiana, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Missouri, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio and people scurrying about working on various projects. Hammers, nails, and ladders were not the tools of the day -- they were replaced with glue guns, baking dishes, flowers, cake mixes, and banners. What, you may be asking, were they doing? They all took part in one of the Farm's most memorable events. Labor Day Weekend, 1993 was "Wedding Weekend!"

Staff members Rose Ratzki and John Morgan were married at Doddridge County Park on September 6, 1993. Wedding Mania at the Farm began earlier in the month when volunteers began arriving to assist with the pre-wedding preparations. Everything from baking muffins, bread, lasagna, and rolls for 150 people to designing and making wedding banners for the big day was taking place day by day. All of the activity was done in the great spirit of cooperation the Farm is known for. Over the course of 5 days about 100 people descended on the Farm for a gathering of friends and family in celebration of Rose and John.

Sunday evening before the wedding we feasted on BBQ-ed and baked goodies and danced to bluegrass tunes. Of course no gathering would be complete at the Farm without the voices of Kay, Karen, and Liz. It was a wonderful evening of friends and fellowship.

Wedding day was a gorgeous late summer day with clear blue sunny skies. Liturgy by Frs. Ted Sizing and Jim Conover was filled with the Spirit as we gathered to witness the beautiful ceremony. Banners of Peace, Faith, Hope, Love and Joy danced in the gentle breeze. The mass was one of the most beautiful I have participated in -- full of love and joy. The celebration continued with a reception and more fun and fellowship. If you missed it -- I'm sorry you did -- it was wonderful. If you were there you know my words don't do it justice. It was a time to renew friendships, make new ones and celebrate life. A wedding is always a special celebration of love. A wedding at Nazareth Farm is awesome! Congratulations Rose and John. We wish you well in your new home and thank you for sharing your special day with us all.

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NAZARETH FARM ORIENTATION

by Amy Hudacko

Nazareth Farm Orientation has been a wonderful experience for staff members and guests. The days have been filled with information gathering seminars, open communicative discussions, and activities to learn more about our neighbor. Each person has been an essential part of the proceedings and together, we have entered into new and exciting doors.

The "meetings" of the week have been blessed with a multitude of subjects and ideas. Each speaker has made a meaningful contribution to our experience. Here is what we shared as a group:

Fr. Jeff Goedecker escorted the group into meaningful prayer. He suggested many ways in which we could put ourselves in that prayer and then offer it to others.

Janet Roth spoke of ideas to provide an effective youth ministry to the volunteers. We also discussed expectations as a community what it means to be a representative of the farm.

Tom Reichart gave a tremendous demonstration on social justice. He offered no answers, but provided open thoughts to feed on and grow with.

Kay Hetherington showered us with her vast knowledge of the history of the farm and explored different challenges we will face living in community.

Sr. John Duffy then presented the history of West Virginia, it's people, and community organizations for individuals.

Bonnie Collins entertained the farm with many stories about local friends and historical situations.

The staff discussed many issues, but the most important topics were a common understanding of community life, service, faith community, and simplicity. We are learning every day that communication will make the difference.

In closing, I believe that all these generous gifts will assist the new staff to form a productive community. We would like to thank each and every guide in our journey for not only sharing their informative work but for extending an exhilarating spirit within us.

NEW STAFF NEWS

by Jen Vail
(and Mike Carroll)

Many of you may have met Michael Carroll while visiting the farm this summer. Mike came on staff in April. He comes from Schenectady, New York and is a graduate of Le Moyne College. If you're looking for a Scrabble partner or someone to discuss the philosophy (and absurdity) of language with, Mike is the one. Most recently, Mike along with fellow staff member, Tom Wirts, has taken up the sport of rock climbing (anyone with spare size nine rock climbing shoes, please call).

Jen Vail joined us about the time John and Rose got married. Like Mr. Wirts and Ms. Ratzki-Morgan, she is a soon-to-be graduate of the University of Dayton. Jen has been doing a great job as our new volunteer coordinator and is one heck of an organizer (except right now she has got the office torn up into a million and one pieces; I suppose our definitions of organization are slightly different). She's also discovering her hidden interest in carpentry; currently she is building a toy chest.

At the time of the wedding, Thomas Cash also joined the staff. Thomas hails from the Chicago area where he recently completed the minor seminary at Niles College of Loyola University (and where Steve Brunette, summer staff is currently in attendance). Before continuing with the major

seminary, Thomas opted for a year's sabbatical at Nazareth Farm (a little early in his career if you ask me). Thomas -- our resident artist -- is also honing his carpentry skills, as he recently built a closet for his room in St. Pat's.

The wedding brought one more staff member, Amy Hudacko (must have been one incredible wedding!). Amy arrived at the Farm from Bayonne, New Jersey, where she is greatly missed by her family and friends. Here at the Farm we are excited to have her energy and willingness to try new things (she asks many questions and has a great ability to motivate others). She recently worked with Mike Carroll, adding a second story to a barn already "40 feet tall." She is able to empathize with any volunteer overcoming a fear of heights!

Our current staff includes: Michael Abramowski, Director; Jen Vail, Volunteer Coordinator; Sheryl Groves, Culinary Genius; Dave Dominak, Dan Stomoff, Sylvia Nieto, Mike Carroll, Amy Hudacko, and Thomas Cash -- Support Staff: "Backbones"; and Tom Wirts, Support Staff and Director of the Doddridge-Ritchie Counties' Habitat for Humanity. Oh, and lest we forget, Gertrude -- poltergeist-at-large.

SUMMER STAFF UPDATE

As many of you are aware especially if you've read all of this newsletter like good little Farmers) Rose and John are married and moved. They loaded their jeep to the max and headed for Georgia to work for "Habit For Humanity". We have had a few communications with them and they are settling in well. You can write to Rose and John at:

John & Rose Morgan
P.O. Box 1599
Americus, GA 31709

Allyson Monaghan, moved back to New Jersey (sorry) and is living with her parents. She's planning to attend college in the spring of this coming year. For more details, write her at: Allyson Monaghan
8 Knollwood Terrace West
Mendham, NJ 07945

Martha White moved back to New Jersey too (sorry again) and is hitting the books. She has some pretty interesting plans in the works, but you'll have to write her and find them out. She's at: Martha White
48 Mansion Park Apts.
Glassboro, NJ 08028

And summer staff member Steve Brunette is back in the theological three ring circus of Niles College Seminary. His classes are rough, but he's doing well. Steve can be reached at: Steve Brunette
c/o Niles College Seminary
7135 N. Harlem Avenue
Niles, IL 60714

WISH LIST

Our experience tells us that many of you are desiring to help us continue and improve our ministry. Our experience tells us that different people at different times are capable of helping out at different degrees. It is our intention to focus each newsletter on a specific area of our ministry providing you with a variety of needs that span the "spending spectrum." This newsletter we are focusing on: "MINISTRY OF THE STOMACH."

Sheryl would like the following:

- Rice Cooker
- Can Opener(s) (Hand, industrial, and/or electric)
- Food Processor
- Casserole Dishes and Serving Bowls
- Walk-in Freezer and/or Refrigerator
- Plastic Tumblers (Glasses)
- Tupperware Containers
- One Gallon Jugs (for worksites)
- Water Pitchers
- Two Large Frying Pans
- Three Medium Size Cooking Pans
- Electric Skillet
- Glass Bread Pans
- Collanders

This is Sheryl's Greatest Desire. Please call her if you have any questions at 304/782-2742.

