

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAN JUAN BAPTIST FARM
THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE
Newsletter--April, 1967

Peter stood up and said, "Men of Israel, listen to me! Jesus the Nazorean was a man whom God sent to you with miracles, wonders, and signs as his credentials. These God worked through him in your midst as you well know. He was delivered up by the set purpose and plan of God; you even made use of pagans to crucify and kill him. God freed him from death's bitter pangs, however, and raised him up again, for it was impossible that death should keep its hold on him. This is the Jesus God has raised up, and we are his witnesses. Exalted at God's right hand, he first received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, then poured this Spirit out on us. Therefore let the whole house of Israel know beyond any doubt that God has made both Lord and Messiah this Jesus whom you crucified."

(Acts 2, 22-25, 32-33, 36)

We rejoice again in the annual celebration of the death/resurrection of Jesus and we proclaim again and again "Alleluia, Praise to our risen Lord." St. Peter in his first sermon proclaims the simple truth to the people of Jerusalem--Jesus has been raised from the dead and we are his witnesses. We the Church are still the witnesses of the resurrection, not witnesses in the same physical sense of Peter and the Apostles, but witness none-the-less of the risen Christ through faith. We are those who are blessed because we have believed, even though we have not seen. In faith, we are called to be living witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus. Our lives and our love for one another should proclaim to all who know us that Jesus lives and gives us life that we share with each other.

Due to the size of the staff for this summer--six staff per week--we are going to limit the number of volunteers for each week to 21 rather than the 30 that we normally have. This means that there will be one third less volunteers and therefore also one third less work done this summer. We are sorry that we have to do this, but there seems to be no other alternative. Most of the weeks are already closed and have a wait list. However, we may have room for a few others, especially veteran volunteers. If you still wish to join us for this summer, get the application in immediately and we MAY be able to accommodate you.

As far as the housing work goes, we may try a new twist and hire some of the local unemployed to help with the construction. This will accomplish the added task of providing employment, work experience (required by welfare) and job training. Working side-by-side with them may help us and them in other ways as well.

The \$2,000.00 grant from Homes Across America has arrived. We raised (through your generosity in part) over \$6,000.00 and we will soon be purchasing a house for rent with the option to buy. We want to expand this option for the poor in the next few years as well as continue to build new homes on the hope land property on Arnold's Creek.

Since unemployment is such a deep rooted problem in this area, we are trying to expand and to set up a Home Land Cooperative Industry. We are not too sure at this time what the industry would be, but are looking toward furniture and crafts that would use the hardwoods that are so plentiful here. In order to even begin to think about this, we need the services of someone in marketing and management to develop a product and a market for the product and to set up the business end of the operation. Then we need someone to set up the manufacturing end and to train workers to produce the product. Hopefully, in a few years, local people would be able to take over both those jobs. Anyone interested? Let us know. Send some kind of resume as to schooling and experience in these areas.

Since our staff is going to be smaller this year, we are going to attempt far less in the way of farm work. We will not be raising pigs this year and plan to cut down on the size of the garden and the number of rabbits and chickens. Perhaps this is a good move in that it will give us more time for the poor, and yet I have always thought that the simple life style of raising much of our own food was a good sign to the people of this county, to the volunteers and to the whole world. We will have to purchase more of our food as a result.

It seems that the problems of the poor and needy in our county are just increasing. There is a much greater need for assistance with housing costs, with utilities, with the many problems of unemployment and poor schooling, with family problems and all other types of problems that the poor face. Again, it seems that other agencies, including the government agencies are cutting back at a time when there is greater need. Constantly we have to ask ourselves the same question: what can we do with limited funds and personnel? What should our priorities be? Where should we be using our resources to achieve the best results? There is a constant need for us to re-evaluate and to change as necessary to fit the changing needs of those we are called to serve.

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED!
ALLELUIA!

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Non-Profit Organization

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