

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF NAZARETH FARM
THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE
Newsletter--March, 1989

Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Through baptism into his death we were buried with him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. If we have been united with him through likeness to his death, so shall we be through a like resurrection. This we know: our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer. A man who is dead has been freed from sin. If we have died with Christ, we believe that we are also to live with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, will never die again; death has no more power over him. His death was death to sin, once for all; his life is life for God. In the same way, you must consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6, 3--11)

As we celebrate the Pascal Mystery of Jesus, we realize that we do not just celebrate an historical event of the past, but that we celebrate the Death/Resurrection of Jesus now for it is present to us. In that celebration, we are called to die to the sinfulness of our lives and to live for God and in service to one another. Christ, our Passover, has been raised from the dead and we have conquered sin and death in him, so we rejoice and give praise and thanks to God who has given us a share in the resurrection of Jesus. Our prayer is that you had a Lent of growth and are ready to celebrate the Resurrection with Joy and Praise to God.

We are in the process of advertising now for the three positions of Director of Ministry and Evangelization, Director for Projects/Fiscal Management and Projects Supervisor. We would like applications in by April 1 so if you are interested or know of someone who is, please let us know immediately. The future of Nazareth Farm depends on getting the right people to come and take over the running of the Farm.

I would like publically thank the members of the Board of Directors of Nazareth Farm and especially the members of the Personnel Committee for all the work that they have done during the past months in writing job descriptions, a staff handbook, applications and meeting many extra times to get together everything that is so necessary for a smooth transition. THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

I would like to remind our volunteers that we ask you to help support the Farm by contributing \$1.00 per month. We depend on your help to keep things running here. There are many extra expenses with the transition and we need the assistance of each one of you. Even more, we are in need of your prayers that those whom the Lord is calling to be here at the Farm will respond and will serve according to the Will of the Father.

An old and dear friend, Uni Lowther contracted pneumonia and spent four weeks in the hospital. She is feeling better, but is still not strong enough to return home. She is temporarily in a nursing home until such time as she is ready to return to her own home in Pullman. In the meantime, she would love to hear from her old friends. Her current address is:

Uni Lowther
Heartland Nursing Home
Room 412
100 Parkway Dr.
Clarksburg, WV 26301

At last, we are finally going to be able to move the Rusty Lipscomb family into their new home at Hope Land. Finishing touches are being completed and target date is March 31. Unless something unexpected happens, we will be able to make that date.

The QUILT RAFFLE is progressing well. The date is May 31 and we have plenty of raffle tickets for any who would like to buy them or sell them. Just get a hold of us and we will be happy to send you books of tickets.

The summer weeks have started to fill up and some will soon be closed. If you want to join us this summer, please make sure that you get your application in soon so that there will be a slot open for you. We are still in need of summer staff and will be taking applications until the middle of April. If interested, please let us know and we will send you an application for staff. There is of course a need for long term volunteer staff for the coming year. Graduating College Seniors, What are you doing next year?

The beauty of the hills of West Virginia in mid-March is amazing. The flowers are blooming and the trees are just about to bud forth with blossoms and leaves. Calves are being born in the fields and deer are visible on the hills day and night as they feed after a long winter. Spring is definitely coming to these hills and "hollers" as winter ducks out the back door.

CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

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On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20, 19-23)

This first Resurrection appearance of Jesus to His disciples in that upper room was a time of great joy--the tragedy of a few days earlier had been wiped out and they were rejoicing that Jesus was alive. He gives them his peace, the peace of the new Messianic age, the peace that Jesus had promised them if he went away and then came back to them. Yet even more astounding was the giving of the mission to them and to the entire Church that he had received from his father. This mission is ours today, it is the mission to reconcile, to unite, to bring back together all who have been scattered. To reunite all people with God and all people with one another, to unite each person within his or her own self. Sin it was (and is) that separates and divides: divides all people from God, from one another and even fractures and divides each person inside. But the power of Jesus takes away sin and reunites. It is this power that Jesus gives to his Church, the power to forgive sin and to reunite and reconcile. We today must be open to the power of the Spirit that Jesus gives so that we may be reconciled and may be reconcilers, so that we may be united to God, one another and within ourselves and bring that reconciliation to others. All this happens ONLY because of the Spirit of Jesus who lives within us.

Our summer is filling up rapidly with very few spaces left to be filled. Yet we are short of staff at this time. A few who had inquired about joining the staff had to change their plans for one reason or another. At this time, we are still looking for assistance for the summer. We also are short of staff for next fall. I would asked each of you, especially those who are graduating from college this spring, to be open in prayer to the call of the Lord in your life and to answer "YES" to whatever the Lord calls you. The future of the Farm depends on our staff.

Our search for leadership here is still in process. We are still open to applications at this writing. I hope to announce the new leadership team in the May newsletter. In the meantime, your continued prayers are asked for the future of Nazareth Farm.

Hope Land is expanding. We are opening a store for "new and nearly new" clothes. We hope that this will assist the economic development of the area and provide jobs for our people and inexpensive quality clothes for the area people. Keep the project in your prayers.

We rejoice that we have been given a new Bishop here in West Virginia. Bishop Schulte who had been bishop here for the last few years was transferred to become Archbishop of New Orleans. Bishop Bernard Schmitt, the auxiliary Bishop of this Diocese and a native son has been named Diocesan Bishop. We are very happy for him and for the entire Diocese. As a native son, he is very aware of the pressing needs of the local poor and need for the Church to minister to them.

The Propagation of the Faith in Syracuse has given us four parishes to preach in this coming year. At this time, only two of them have been scheduled: St. Joseph the Worker, Liverpool--July 22/23 and St. James, Johnson City--July 29/30. The other parishes are St. Anthony's in Endicott and St. Joseph's in Oswego. I will let you know the schedule there as soon as it is available. I hope that many of you who live in the area will be able to join us for one of the Masses.

We are scheduling parties and reunions for the end of the summer to celebrate our tenth anniversary. We will be in Terre Haute, IN the evening of Friday, August 11 for a party. There will be fund raising dinner in the Binghamton area on Tuesday, August 22 and of course the week long celebration here at Nazareth Farm from August 27 to September 3. I hope that as many as possible plan to attend one of these and that I will get a chance to be with you before I depart for the west coast. If any of you live in the San Francisco area or along the way, be sure to let me know where you are so I can visit.

Already, the work requests are piling up for the summer and it looks like it will be a busy one. I hope that you will be with us here to share this summer with us. If not, I hope that you will be with us in spirit and in prayer. I would also ask that you help to share our financial burden, especially at this time of transition. We need to know that you are committed to Nazareth Farm and to its continued presence here in these "hills and hollers."

COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL
AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

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Newsletter--May 1989

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."
(John 11, 21--27)

Martha was a woman of faith, even in the midst of the sorrow and sufferings when her brother Lazarus died. She was a woman who believed in the power and the love of Jesus even when it did not seem obvious as when Jesus had not come to heal Lazarus before he died. We are called to an all powerful faith, a faith that is present even when the conditions of our life don't seem to warrant it. It is Jesus who is the resurrection and the life and we are called to place our faith in him even when we "walk in the valley of the shadow of death."

This reflection on the woman of faith who believes in the midst of death comes because of the death of Uni Lowther on May 10. She was truly a woman of faith. This Gospel reading from John was the passage used in the funeral liturgy and I was able to reflect upon her faith during the homily. She will be most sorely missed. She had become in many ways my adopted grandmother and was very special to me. One of the things about leaving West Virginia that was going to be most difficult was leaving Uni. The Lord spared me that separation by taking her into his kingdom now. She was 87 years old and lived a full active life up to the very end. We praise and thank God for her and for the gift of herself which she gave to all of us.

Our summer is certainly busy. Right now it is completely filled, except for family week when there is possibly room for one more family. We are still very short of staff for this summer and for the coming year and are still looking for people willing to give of themselves and their time. If you have come here as a volunteer, you know how necessary a good working staff is in order for NF to function well. If you wish to come for a volunteer week and have not yet sent in your application, it is too late. There is no more room.

We are very fortunate that Father Bernard Nelson of the Diocese of Syracuse will be taking my place. He will be arriving July 1 and we will work together through July and August. We have had some interest and some applications for the other positions, but have as yet not selected anyone for those positions. We will still be taking applications for a short time and if anyone is interested, please contact me as soon as possible. Since we don't issue Newsletters during the summer, Fr. Bernie will be writing the next one.

As was mentioned before, we are planning a big reunion during the week of August 27 through September 3. It will be a 10th anniversary celebration for Nazareth Farm and a time of great rejoicing for all that Lord has done in our midst. We would like all of our volunteers to join us if possible. Since there are now over 2,000 of you, it is important that we know in advance who is coming and when. We would love to have it be possible for all of you to come. If you wish to join us for any part of that week, please return the enclosed form to Jo Caratelli at her Cortland, NY address. Since we are going to require food and sleeping for everyone, it is imperative that you let us know that you are coming. Please don't give us any surprises.

This summer we are going to try to finish up many things here at NF and also with the local folks, especially the folks at Hope Land. At this time it doesn't look like we will be starting a new house at Hope Land due to time and also to money. We really don't have enough to start a fourth home at this time. We hope to do some fund raising for Hope Land this summer, including a car raffle in late August during the anniversary party. We have tickets available (\$1.00 each) and will be happy to send them out to anyone who would like to sell them for us or would like to buy a few. Please get in touch with me.

On May 1, Hope Land opened a store for new and nearly new clothing. All the clothing comes from the people of St. Anthony's parish in Endicott, NY. This store is part of the Economic Development which is our goal here now. We must provide jobs and opportunities to the local people if they are to have the Hope in the future that they need and the independence and interdependence and community which is so necessary. This store is great, but it is only a start. There is a need for more business and industry and a need for us to facilitate economic development here in the mountains, a development which will respect the dignity of the people and respect this beautiful land. We hope to be able to do more in the near future and will be turning to you for assistance. In the meantime, the HOPE LAND BARGAIN CELLAR is doing great.

All the time, the needs of the families in the area increase and there is a need for an increase in staff and in funding if we are to address those needs. Please remember your \$1.00 a month donation and please keep us in your prayers that those whom the Lord is calling to NF will respond generously and serve as the Lord invites. You are always in our prayers.

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AND KINDLE IN US THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE!

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