
NAZARETH NEWS

ISSUE NO. 2

1994



RISE TO NEW LIFE

The garden is planted. The white barn is drywalled. The tractor barn has come back to life! And so it goes. We have opened a busy volunteer season and have many work sites lined up for the summer. The projects include roofing, painting, siding, and room additions. We are especially happy that work at the Knudsen's will soon begin. To finish their home, a septic system and water and generator hook up's will be installed. Thank's to St. Joseph's in Mendham, New Jersey, this and other projects are possible.

I want to thank all of you for your continued support of the Farm. Your prayers, gifts, donations, and kindness are appreciated. A special thank you to Father Ted Sizing who leaves our board of directors after six years of faithful service. We wish you well Ted, in your new assignment at St. Francis Farm. We also thank Jim Murphy who is completing his term on the board. Good luck in your new job Jim, visit us when you can. Thanks also to Fr. Jim Conover and to Wayne Venezia. Both have recently completed terms on the board. Thank you for your generosity to the Farm, its mission, and to us. We

keep all of you in our prayers.

After one and a half months of taking turns cooking, the staff (and maybe some of you!) are happy to announce Sister Paula Gallant will cook for us this summer from June 12 to August 15. We are indeed thankful for such a wonderful blessing.

As I prepare to leave Nazareth Farm after one year of service, I thank God for the beauty of the past twelve months. I thank the staff for their support of me in the role as interim director. I am confident that the Holy Spirit is guiding us in the process of selecting a new director.

The best way I can summarize what the year has meant to me is by sharing this quote from Rabindranath Tagore:

"I slept and I dreamt that life
was all joy
I woke and saw that life was
but service
I served, and
discovered that service was joy."

peace, Sylvia



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is a publication of

NAZARETH FARM

The Association of Volunteers for Christian Service
 Little Battle Run, Center Point, WV 26339
 304-782-2742

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6/94

INCREDIBLE DONATIONS!!

Recently, the parishioners and Human Concerns Committee of St. Joseph's parish in Mendham, New Jersey, made an incredible donation to Nazareth Farm. Parishioners were challenged by then director, Mike Abramowski, to "touch the web of life," through which all of humanity is connected. The Human Concerns Committee organized a Lent fund raising drive with the images of "St. Joseph the Builder in Appalachia" and a mini-house built by a parishioner with a rural delivery mail box for donations. Former volunteers to the Farm also helped with the efforts.

With an original goal of \$10,000.00, all were filled with joy when the monies collected exceeded \$16,500.00. This gift is meant to fund major projects for families and individuals with whom we work. Project co-ordinators Dan Gallagher, Butch Sandora, and the rest of staff are excited, to say the least, for the potential materials this money can supply for projects such as roofing, septic systems, additions, electrical and plumbing work, etc. Many of you will be pleased to know that a portion of the money is specifically meant for use in completing the work at the Knudsen's home. Thank you to the people of St. Joseph's Parish and God Bless! Long Live the Miracle!

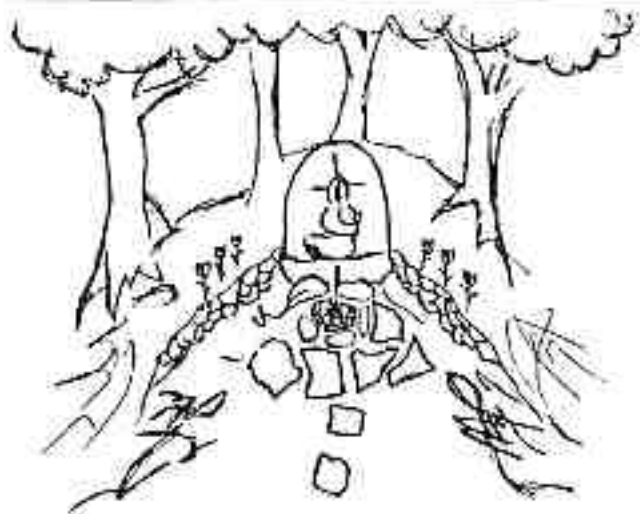
Another big thanks to the people and volunteers of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Downers Grove, IL. and St. Raphael's in Naperville, IL. All presented the Farm with monies raised from car washes, coat checks, a spaghetti dinner, baby-sitting, and bake sales. You help keep the miracle alive!

And speaking of miracles, how about those fifteen years of miracles -- the fifteen years Nazareth Farm has been in existence? Long live the miracle of Nazareth Farm! You can help keep this beautiful Gospel message alive and spreading. Meet Janet Roth's challenge of the last newsletter by sending in a donation of \$15.00 for the fifteen years of miracles. Some of you who have met Janet's challenge, and we here pray that more of you do the same. Remember, you and your support are a large part of what makes the miracle happen. Let's keep it alive!

If you or your group does some fund raising or comes up with a great fund raising idea, write us and let us know. Then we can write about you in our next newsletter and share your ideas!

SACRED SPACES

New to the structures on the Nazareth Farm property is a stone grotto to the Blessed Mother. Constructed with the help of groups from Loyola of Chicago, Univ. of IL, LeMoyne, St. Anne's, and St. Patrick's, the grotto was inspired by staff members Dan Stomoff, Sylvia Nieto, and Thomas Cash. Be sure to visit when you're here.



SHARE THE PRAYER

"I'd like you all to relax a little, get comfortable,... take a few deep breaths,... listen to the birds in the trees and the running water in the creek,... and be at peace...."

Prayer is an integral part of the Nazareth Farm experience. Many of you have written us and thanked us for giving you "a week of great and memorable prayer." But please know that the prayer we prayed was created by you! And the Spirit of God you encountered was the Spirit you brought -- already inside you when you stepped out of your van and got your first hug!

If your prayer experience at Nazareth Farm remains only "a week of great and memorable prayer," if prayer and thanks-giving does not become a daily part of your life, then we have not clearly conveyed our message. Our ambition as staff is that you would *take* your prayer *from* the Farm and continue to pray it and grow with it as an individual and as a group when you return home. Consider having reunions or forming prayer groups and taking turns planning prayer. One group from Hoban High School does just that. Or consider "adopting" a staff person to pray for, we need your prayers.

There is nothing more gratifying than receiving news of your reunions and your continued growth after you've made the week's last trip down Little Battle on Saturday morning. Write us about your reunions, share with us what you're doing. You have taught us much about prayer, and you can teach us more. Peace.

WISHES FULFILLED

A special Thank You to those people who donated materials and supplies to our new Prayer Resource Library. Thanks to Janet Roth, Karen Busch, Joan Frisz, Dave Pichette, Sheryl Groves, Sylvia Nieto, Angela Halbrook, Betty Krupp, Brian Taylor, Jen Jackman, Ammi Ludwick, Patty Bubar, Mary Cloonan, Christine, Bart, and so many others for taking the time to send a book, a tape, or xerox a favorite prayer. And great gobs of gratitude go out to Mike and Kathy Gentile (Kathy, you *will* come to the Farm!) for donating a new stereo system for use during prayer in the O'Connor Room. Please keep those donations coming! Call Thomas for suggestions.

"HABITITIS" EPIDEMIC

Many of you who have recently visited the Farm have been infected with "Habititis," a term used to describe the cozie-woozie-warm-fuzzie feelings from working with Habitat for Humanity. Here's a brief update on what's going on with Doddridge-Ritchie Habitat for Humanity. The foundation is laid, the floor is in, and the exterior walls are raised, braced, plumbed, and sheathed (see "Sunset: Basic Carpentry Illustrated" pg. 72). The trusses are set, sheathed, and half shingled. Tom Wirts, Habitat-Deity, has been moving and shaking and making D-R HFFH's first homeowner, Loxie Pirtle's dream come true. From the way Tom talks sometimes, I think one of his dreams is coming true too. God's blessings Tom! We knew you could do it!



AND THEN THERE WERE...

Lately staff around here are changing so fast it's hard to keep track. So here's a quick update. Mike Carroll is *walking home* to New York with long time friend Jen Brooks. Sylvia Nieto U-hauled it back to Terre Haute and is seeking employment. Tom Wirts has also left the Farm staff, but he is staying in the area to work with Doddridge-Ritchie Habitat for Humanity. God's blessings to you all, and know that this will always be a home to you.

New to the staff are Dan Gallagher, Dave Roberts, and Sr. Paula Gallant. Dan Gallagher, from New Jersey, joins us after years of contracting experience. Dan joins as fellow project co-ordinator with Butch Sandora. Dave Roberts, originally from Maryland, joins us after working for a software company in Silver Springs, Maryland, just outside of Washington D.C. Sr. Paula, long-time Farm veteran from Pennsylvania, joins staff after being coerced this past Holy Week. Welcome and we wish you luck and God's peace.

Please continue to pray for still more wonderful people to fill necessary positions for long term commitments.



Hello to all our loved ones! --the Staff of Nazareth Farm

WISH / NEED - LIST

Thank you to all of you who continue to show your generosity through gifts of materials. Often, the items in these lists are wishes or needs whose costs exceed our limit for a specific budget line item. Your contributions help us to do better what we do.

This list we are asking for a variety of things,...

Things we still request / need

- belt sander
- large serving bowls
- books & music for Prayer Resource Library
- ~~Executive director~~
- 386 computer (w/ negotiable compensation)

New things we wish / need

- two new gas lawn mowers
- new pots & pans to cook food for you
- double bed and furniture for guest house
- two outdoor hammocks
- solar ground lites for path to grotto
- ceiling fans, with & w/o lights

****clip out or copy and mail in with your donation today****

I want to support Nazareth Farm and its mission!

(Please check one) Accept my donation of:

- \$15.00 - for the 15 years of miracles of the Farm
- \$25.00 - can buy 100 sq. ft. of a roof
- \$50.00 - can feed 1/2 the staff for 1 week
- \$100.00 - will buy most of the lumber for a front porch
- \$ _____ (other) - can make a miracle!

****all donations keep the miracle alive****

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAZARETH FARM
LITTLE BATTLE RUN, CENTER POINT, WV, 26339

THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME

by Fr. Ted Sizing

I love the title our Catholic Bishops gave to the pastoral letter they wrote in 1975: "This Land is Home to Me." It spoke of the wonderful people who live in the hills and hollers throughout the Appalachian Region... sometimes struggling, often powerless, but always filled with an inner beauty and wholesome simplicity.

Nazareth Farm was founded in 1979, and from the very beginning as each succeeding group came to know and experience these folks of the hills and hollers, we began to say with a smile, "This Land is Home to Me, Too!"... for we have found life among the people here, and Christlike community among volunteers, staff, and governing board. These are my sentiments as I depart from the board after six happy years.

At our May board meeting we confidently invited Harold Schramm, Liz Dowling, and Larry Lenne to make "This Land Home" by their work on behalf of Nazareth Farm. At the same time we extend a deep-hearted thanks to Fr. Jim Conover, Jim Murphy, and Wayne Venezia who have just completed terms. The newcomers will join John Doughty, Fr. Jeff Godecker, Betty Krupp, Phil Vitale, Dave Brummel, Janice Dugan, and chair Janet Roth, secretary Patty Bubar, and treasurer Bill Suttle.

This past year, Nazareth Farm has had a staff of extraordinary giftedness and generosity. We are deeply grateful to Tom Wirts, Amy Hudacko, Thomas Cash, Mike Carroll, Dan Stomoff, and most especially to Sylvia Nielo and Jen Vail who have guided us through an interim period as we await a new director. Thanks to all of you for making Nazareth Farm "Home to All of Us." As many of you go forth now and in the next few months, I pray, "that God's love in you continues to light fires of faith and hope in others, and that the fires grow and burn and burst and inflame the earth!... May God's blessing of LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP be with you always!"



"A BIG"
 THANKS FOR ALL
 YOUR PRAYERS WHICH HAVE
 PUT TO AN END OUR SEARCH
 FOR AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!
 THE POSITION HAS BEEN
 ACCEPTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL FROM
 THE AREA. IN 2 WHO WILL
 BE JOINING US BY THE END
 OF THIS MONTH IF ALL FALLS
 INTO PLACE!!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WORD JIMBLE: YKEGNDIOR