

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF HAZARETH FARMS
THE ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE
Newsletter--September, 1983

Is not the cup of blessing we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we many though we are, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. You then are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it.

(1st Cor. 10, 16-17; 12, 12 & 27)

At the end of this long, hot summer, I have been reflecting upon three things, all interrelated: The Eucharist, Community, and Justice. Perhaps it was the Sunday Gospels during July and August which reflected on the sixth chapter of John's Gospel that started me thinking this way. We are all called to be one, all of us who share in the one Body of Christ in the Eucharist, we are called to be formed together into one body, one community which is the Body of Christ itself. And this Body, the Church, which feeds upon the Eucharist is called to reach out in Justice to the poor and not only assist them in their needs, but also to work to bring about that just society where poverty will be rare and where all people can together serve and work according to the gifts which God has given to all of us. The Eucharist calls us to justice and service and to community and it is as a community of service and justice that we can fully celebrate and rejoice in the gift of Eucharist that Jesus gives to us.

We had a very busy summer and a staff that was low in quantity although very high in quality. The small number of staff made the summer difficult. However we were able to touch lives of many people and to grow in prayer and community. At this writing, the Lipscomb house at Hope Land is nearing completion. We are working on insulation and sheet rock this week and will soon be into the final touches or finishing. Still we don't expect to move the family in until late fall, probably about Thanksgiving.

Our Hope Land project has one more aspect to develop. We hope to begin working soon on a cooperatively owned factory. Harry Sloate, an '68 Boston College Grad will be joining us this month to work on developing a product and a marketing strategy. You will be hearing more soon as we try to raise funds to cover the set-up costs.

We also have another quilt raffle to raise funds for the Hope Land house we are building. The raffle is November 9. The tickets are \$5.00 a book. We would be happy to send you books of tickets to purchase or sell. Write and we will send them out to you. Anyone selling tickets should get money and stubs back to us before Nov. 9.

Some sad news for those who have not heard it yet. --Martha Elliott died on May 27 from the complications of Lung Cancer. The boys are trying to make it on their own but are struggling. The family needs your prayers as it is a very difficult time for them.

Besides Harry Sloate, we also look forward to welcoming on staff this month, Jimmy Moody from the campus, and one of us, of Boston College, '88 and Mary Ellen McLaugherty from Coronation of Our Lady Parish in Granville, O.

There have been a great many generous people, upon us financially during the last few months and we could use some help right now to continue to meet the needs of the poor. One area of great need right now is assistance with fuel bills. Several people who are behind in their payments let out our notices before the October (since they can not by let out our during the cold months.) If any of you who could help us, we would greatly appreciate it. Some of you have been very faithful about the \$1000/month. (and many with less than just \$1.00 each month.) If all were, we would not have any financial problems.

Enclosed with this mailing are the applications for the school year volunteer program, one for high school students and one for those who are beyond high school. If you are interested, please return the application soon as the weeks will go quickly and since we still do not have many spots, the group size is going to be limited more than before. This newsletter is also going to those who have requested information and applications.

We are getting our new computer on line now and will soon be putting all our data into it. Please get any address changes to us AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so that we can get our mailing labels in good order.

Ten years ago, I had a dream and a vision of a community of love, prayer and service here in the Mountains reaching out to the poor and abandoned of our society, a community that welcomed volunteers and allowed them to experience the joy of being in this community. A year from now I will be leaving Nazareth Farm for a sabbatical break and then parish work back in the Diocese of Syracuse. But my prayer is that the vision will not die as I leave, that the dream will continue. However in order for this to happen, we need people to come and take up the reigns of Nazareth Farm as long term volunteers (probably 3 year minimum commitment.) The board of Directors is willing to pay a stipend for people and will make such a commitment and serve this community and the poor. We need a priest-chaplain, a program director, and willing foreman to work to ether with our social worker as a team. Interested, write me for more information.

COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD. TRUST IN HIM AND HE WILL ACT.

(Ps. 37, 4)

Non-Profit Organization

NAZARETH FARM
 Little Battle
 Center Point, WV 26339

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