

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

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased.
Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.
Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops,
Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it:
I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations,
To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness. (Isaiah, 42, 1, 5-7)

The Lord speaks to us, his people and tells us that he has grasped us by the hand and has called us for the victory of justice. The Lord wills justice for all peoples and calls us to work together to bring about that justice which is his will. As I survey again and again the injustice and the pain of the people here in Doddridge County, the sense of despair and hopelessness, the barren lives, I hear the Lord calling us to work for justice, for a decent education, for jobs, for housing which suits the dignity of his children. I see the good that has been done and the tremendous need for more. I see the generous volunteers and the generous donations and yet I see the need for more. Things have started to change and yet at times it seems so slow. Yet it is all in God's time and not ours. It is his will that we seek and while we know his will is justice for all, we also know that we are only instruments in his hands and it is only when we accept his will for us that justice will come. And so we work and pray that his will, his justice will come to all in these mountains.

We begin Lent this year on Wednesday, February 8. Enclosed is our calendar of Lenten Meditation verses. All are taken from the readings of the day and so in reflecting upon them, you will be joining in thoughts and prayers with the entire Church. We offer this to you to use in whatever way you choose. I would offer the suggestion that you read the verse in the morning and then spend a minute or so reflecting upon it and return to it for brief moments throughout the day.

As we begin this new year, we realize that it will be a year of great change here at Nazareth Farm and a year of great change for me. As all of you know by now, I will be leaving Nazareth Farm this coming September. After a three month sabbatical at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, outside San Francisco, CA and a few weeks vacation and touring, I will be entering parish work in my home Diocese of Syracuse, NY. After over ten years of my leadership, Nazareth Farm will pass to other capable hands. We are presently organizing a

search committee through the personnel committee of our Board of Directors. Over the past year, a long range planning committee has met and has formulated a Mission Statement and a set of Goal and Objectives. I will be sharing those with you in a future Newsletter. The main thing that we ask of all of you now is your prayers that God's will be done for Nazareth Farm and that the Lord will send here the people whom he wishes who will do his will and help to bring his justice to these mountains. I also ask for prayers for me as I enter this year of transition and adjustment in my life.

Although the winter winds are blowing and the wood fire is crackling in the stove, it is time to think of summer. New month's Newsletter will have the summer application and we will be sending out information to all youth ministry people about the summer program. In order to plan the summer, we must have a staff that will assist us and help with the work. We need about 8 to 10 people to staff this summer and about 4 to 5 to staff this fall during the transition period. It should be a great time to be here. Staff should be Catholics who are at least one year out of high school and seeking to grow in prayer and to live in community with the staff. They should have been here as volunteers and should want to live simply and to serve the community and the poor of the region. If you are interested in staffing and would like more information and an application, please send us a note and we will get the information to you. We would like all summer staffing applications in to us by April 15 so we can plan the weeks for the summer volunteers. I would encourage interested college seniors to consider a year of volunteer service with us after college. All student guaranteed loans are deferred for up to three years for voluntary service.

An old friend of ours, Jim Adams, died on Christmas eve. I was with him just a few minutes before he died. Jim Cohen, a neighbor and friend died in a car accident a week before Christmas. They are in our prayers as are all our deceased volunteers, benefactors and friends.

YOUR ATTITUDE MUST BE THAT OF CHRIST!

Nazareth Farm
Little Battle Run
Center Point, WV 26339

Non-Profit Organization

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