

-NAZARETH NEWS-

ISSUE NO. 1

January, February, March 1995

OUR MISSION

by Rodney Dick

Last year approximately 600 young volunteers traveled hundreds of miles to Center Point, West Virginia to share their talents and energy with a few residents of Doddridge County. As a result, Nazareth Farm was able to help approximately 25 local families.

So what is it about Nazareth Farm that attracts so many young people every year? Is it the substandard living conditions in rural Appalachia, and the desire to improve them? Is it our attempt to live a life of prayer, simplicity, and community centered on the Eucharist? Is it how friendly and hospitable the people who live in the area are? Or, simply the beauty that surrounds us everyday in nature?

Each volunteer has a different reason for coming to Nazareth Farm, many of which are mentioned above. However, no matter what the reason one has for coming to the Farm, at the end of the week it is common to hear volunteers share that they are leaving with the feeling they have been given much more than they gave. They also leave having had their stereotypes of Appalachia, and the people who live here shattered.

Yes, the needs of the people we serve are great; however, so are the needs of many of the neighbors we live with in our hometowns. Quite possibly, a member of our immediate family may be in greater need of our assistance than anyone else around us.

Nazareth Farm is about serving those living in poverty, and trying to understand what Jesus was asking of us when he said "Love your neighbor." In order to fully reflect on the meaning of being a neighbor, components

NAZARETH FARM MISSION STATEMENT

Nazareth Farm is an association of the Roman Catholic Church, located in the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston, formed in response to and rooted in the Gospel and Social Teachings of the Church.

Our mission is to provide volunteers a communal experience of Church, as a center of reflection and prayer, while working to promote social justice through the empowerment of the local community and volunteers.

To realize this mission we will strive to form a base community of prayer centered on the Eucharist and open to the Spirit.

of prayer, community, simplicity, and service to others are important - all of which can be found at Nazareth Farm.

Nazareth Farm is not here to impose our values and standards of living on those we serve. The simple fact is that many of us who come to serve every year are much more poverty stricken than those we help through home rehabilitation and visitation. Why do many volunteers leave feeling they are taking more home more than they have given? Probably because the people of Doddridge County are rich in spirit, family values, pride, and faith; something many of us sometimes lack. Because we may be blessed materially, doesn't necessarily mean that we are richer than those families we work with at Nazareth Farm.

When volunteers come to Nazareth Farm for a week of service, it is important to realize that our help has been requested by the families we work with, and that we only do what is asked of us. We try to be a good neighbor.

Yes, we are here to serve; however, we are also served by the people of the area through all of the important things they have to teach us about being a neighbor, brother, sister, mother, father, friend, and Christian. We also learn that we do not need to drive hundreds of miles to find people in need, because they may be a few steps away in our own home.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Reflections from Rod
- Wish/Need List
- Project & Staff Up-dates
- Thank you's
- Your News! and more...

NAZARETH NEWS

ISSUE NO. 1 Jan/Feb/Mar 1995
is a publication of

NAZARETH FARM, INC.

Route 2 Box 194-3
Salem, WV 26426-9451
304-782-2742

Board of Directors

Janet Roth, Chair
Bill Suttle, Treasurer
Patty Babar, Secretary
David Brummel
Sr. Mary Clark
Fr. John Donovan
Liz Dowling
Janice Dugan
Fr. Jeff Godecker
Joe Hofmann
Betty Krupp
Larry Lenné
Harold Schramm
Phil Vitale

Farm Staff

Rodney Dick, Executive Director
Thomas Cash
Tim Ciavatti
John Doughty
Chris Faust
Eric Hoch
Sarah Jacobson
Dave Roberts
Butch Sandora
Alicia Soszynski

3/95

NOTHING BUT SATURDAY'S

by John Doughty

My experience taking volunteers to the home of Olan, Rosa, and Cassie Channell has been a real pleasure. It is the same kind of pleasure that comes from a life that supplies one with nothing but Saturday's.

Saturday's are spent on fun crafty projects, visiting some of your favorite friends or relatives, eating snack cakes and making sure nobody works too much.

The farm does not offer me an experience of altruism. I enjoy Rosa, Olan and Cassie's company as much as any person I have ever met. I believe most of the volunteers share my experience and I know that Chris (my cohort) agrees.

We sit and talk for hours, Rosa pulls out her bowl of Little Debbie's snack cakes for us. Olan has enough interesting stories to keep me listening for two months and running. And Cassie - she deserves a story all her own. She lights up the atmosphere when she's in the room. Allow me to explain.

One day Cassie had a snow day from school. We were renovating a room in the house and to say the least frustration had set in. Cassie invited us to go sledding. A wonderful Saturday event (It was Thursday- middle of the work week). In her mind it was a wonderful way to spend time. We went out to the yard and played for quite some time. We made a snow man and took several trips down the hill. Jesus used to say little children knew a little something about the kingdom of heaven. I think I know what Jesus meant.

Olan and Rosa are raising Cassie - their granddaughter. They've given a lot up for her. Now they want to make her home a little nicer.

I wanted to come and help at the Farm. I like the way they treat their neighbors and I like the ministry. There is a funny saying in the gospels. Jesus says that whosoever gives up family, friends, or treasure for the sake of the gospel will have many more of these besides given them by the father in heaven. By giving up a few months to serve here I've gained nothing but Saturday's and some great new friends. Olan and Rosa took on Cassie. She's nine years old and quite a chore. But she's given them a life of smiles.

SERVICE OUT OF SERVICE

The purpose of this article is to recognize groups or individuals whose service experience has continued beyond their week spent here. It is also a chance to thank those who make donations to the Farm through Parish Appeals, Tithes, and donations.

Last Fall, students from the University of Scranton visited the Farm and learned of our Christmas gift drive. They collected and donated \$300 to go towards our efforts! Thanks Scranton! Hager Dager!

Recently, Rodney visited Terre Haute, IN, and spoke at St. Joseph's Parish to tell people about the Farm, its ministry to the young people and the people of our county. Donations approximated \$1,500.00. Thanks Rodney and thank you St. Joseph's Parish!

Amanda Nofie, Rebecca Manwaring, and Kim Humphry, all former volunteers, spoke during Masses in Terre Haute, IN as a fund raising campaign for the Farm. Sacred Heart collected \$848, St. Ann's \$414, and \$120 was collected from a Youth Mass. Thank you Amanda, Rebecca, Kim, and Janet Roth and thank you to the parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Ann's for over ten years of support.

Also, for some time now, Our Lady of the Presentation Church in Lee's Summit, MO, has been tithing \$100.00 monthly to the Farm. It is very reassuring when people's generosity abounds and continues to abound. Thank you Our Lady of the Presentation.

Boston College sends out several Appalachian volunteer groups and one group visited the here in March. They donated \$200 to Nazareth Farm, thanks BC! Most recently, a group visited from St. Louis University and presented us with a check for \$500. Thank you SLU!

AND THEN THERE WERE...

What was that?! Birds chirping?! Grass growing?! Could it be...could it be...Spring?! Wa-hoo! Yeah God! So with the changing of the Seasons, here's an update on the changing staff. Eric has finished his two month term as house manager and some returning volunteers commented he made some of the best meals they've had. Chris will take over house manager responsibilities through April. Rodney has made appeals at a few parishes. He's also offered to cook for May, (send recipes). John arrived in January and will be working closely with Butch. Sarah is "lamenting the fact that Spring has sprung early", and Dave is back in the work site force giving it his all. Alicia has applied to Grad schools for this Fall and she's waiting to hear news (only about 6 more months til Alicia's next birthday). Butch is lining up great Spring and Summer work projects. He also oversaw the completion of the Garage Bay. Thomas has signed on for a couple more years, and Tim...well...Tim is still Tim.

New to the Farm staff will be Joe Hennessy of Orland Park, IL. Joe graduated from Loyola in Chicago in January '95, and has been here as a volunteer and a visitor a couple of times. He comes from a big family, 6 older brothers, mom & dad, and says that community life will be challenging?

We prepare to welcome two new board members at the next meeting, Sr. Mary Clark from West Union, WV and Fr. John Donovan from Morrisville, NY. Both will begin terms this May. Sr. Mary Clark is from the area and brings that perspective to the board among other things. Fr. John Donovan ("JD"), serves as a chaplain in Colgate College Newman Center and brings not only a campus ministry perspective, but also a sense of history as he has been involved with the Farm since before it began. Welcome Mary Clark and JD!

Please continue to pray for a person open to our house manager position and please pray for all of us here now. Thank you and God bless.

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

Thank You Nazareth Farm!

I wish to show my immediate support.

Please accept my donation of: (please check one)

- \$25.00 - might cover 250 sq ft of a roof
 \$50.00 - can paint a living room
 \$100.00 - could pay for a window
 \$200.00 - can feed 20 volunteers for 1 week
 \$_____ - (other) will make a miracle!

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NAZARETH FARM
 ROUTE 2 BOX 194-3 SALEM, WEST VIRGINIA 26426

WISH / NEED LIST

Thank you to all of you who responded to Rodney's Annual Appeal in the last issue. Your contributions did help! We publish this wish list in part to supplement appeals like that as well as offer you an opportunity to make a more specific donation. These are things we need! Please consider them well. Thank you.

Things we still request / need

- 2 - 6 or 8 ft. fiberglass step ladders
- house manager

New things we wish / need

- 15' blade for miter saw & other saw blades
- 1/2 horse power bench grinder
- drywall screwdriver (drill)
- 2 - 4ft levels
- 25ft tape measurers
- clothes drying machine

WISHES GRANTED!!

We are so blessed! Arthur Petrino of West Islip, New York got together many donations from local groups and parishes and sent them down on the HopeLand Bargain Cellar truck. Included was a clothes washing machine, several serving bowls, some canned food, a piano, and a monetary donation, etc. Wow! Other donations went to the HopeLand Bargain Cellar. Thanks to Arthur, The "Peanut Butter Gang" at St. Anne's, the Parish Outreach and the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Lourdes, and to Fr. Christian Casper and the parish of Holy Family Church.



NEXT ISSUE...

- Reflections from the Farm
- Up-dates
- Many Thank You's
- The Bishop's Visit
- Message From the Board
- Your News! and more...