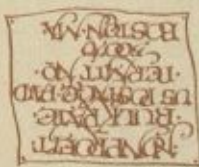


Fall 1984



FARM CROSSING

Sunday
October 28th

Join us in
Winchendon

One of the realities of living at a Catholic Worker House is that people inevitably come and go. These "comings and goings", some of which we told you of in our last newsletter, have been continuing here at Haley House. The last few months, we seem to have had more than our share of these. And as with many things in life, there is a mixture of sadness and joy in all of it.

This melange of sadness and joy was especially present in May, when Jim, Louise and Noah went to begin a new life on the Haley House farm - still to receive a new name! Sadness, because a family that had been part of our "family" at Haley House for the past 2 years, and had given us so much happiness was now leaving us. The house is certainly much quieter without Noah running around! And yet, there is a real feeling of joy and expectation as Peter Maurin's vision of a rural community begins to be brought to life on the land in Winchendon. Michael Harank returned to the House from his couple of months away on retreat and his visits to family and friends. He too, along with Eileen, Lisa, Bill and Luke have begun life on the farm. We had a wonderful mid-summer picnic with them recently, and all is well and growing - people and plants! Our thoughts and prayers are with all of them as they begin a new life in a community of faith and of hope.

As if this transition were not enough, John and Annie Doyle left the House in June to live in Worcester, so that John can be closer to his job. We remember with fondness the energy and love which they both graced us with during their too short stay. God's blessings as they move on - and especially to Annie when she returns to Fiji for four weeks in September.

- summer 1984 -

WEEK BY WEEK - fall 1984 -

Even in the midst of these goings, there have been many comings as well. Those who live at the House have found themselves doing some live-in hospitality, a further opening of our home and hearts to those in need. Evelyn - one of our regulars at the elderly meal who was burned out of her rooming house - Edna, Jude, Ed, Wayne, John and Ken have all stayed with us for various lengths of time. And now, Ed Hennessey, a long-time friend and part of Haley House, who has just been released from the hospital, is staying with us until he is ready to go to the farm. In the meantime he's recuperating, reading, and doing some odd chores around the house. And on the live-in community front, Jo Connolly, a member of the Ailanthus community and the Beacon Hill Friends, and regular volunteer at our elderly meals, will begin living with us in September.

The summer is generally a time helping us out dwindles, due to regular student volunteers and summer months. However, this with the presence of a who have come to grace us with spirit. We would



when the number of volunteers vacations, the absence of our regulars just the slower pace of the summer we have been blessed number of faithful people share in our work and their enthusiasm and just like to mention

them: Bill, Dan, John, Ethan, Doc, Mark, Chris - and to say a warm "thank you." Visitors may notice some changes on the outside of our building. Bob Wegener has produced (with the help of friends) a deck for the enjoyment of us all. No barbecues have been hosted, but it is a favorite spot for meetings.

Fr. Emery Desrochers first insulated and rebuilt the exterior walls of the kitchen, and as one thing leads to another, some painting was called for... We marvelled at Emery's patience as group decision-making went through three tentative color schemes before the final product won approval.

Twelve of the Haley House community came together for this summer's Day of Reflection on the last Saturday in July. Jane Redmont, a member of the Paulist Center Staff, was invited to lead us in prayer and discussion centering around the theme "Caring for Ourselves While Caring for others." It was a chance to share about the activities we are all involved in and how we try to balance the need for a life of prayer and reflection with the many works we feel called to as well.

To open Jane led a set of yoga exercises that help to relax the body. We shared scripture readings and reflections. There was a time for silence and solitude throughout the day. At noon we had lunch together and it was a chance for the Haley House community to get to know Jane on a more personal basis. So many of us have participated in various ways at the Paulist Center and have been aware of her work and presence there, but have not had the opportunity to speak with her. She, on the other hand, has had some contact with Haley House, through similar interests, but had never been down to visit.

In the afternoon we shared some practical suggestions to help organize our time and become more intentional about our lives of prayer and action. We found that we all struggle continually with trying to maintain a healthy balance. It was a source of support to everyone to realize that and to share insights gained in a wide variety of circumstances. We are thankful to Jane for her sensitive direction and facilitation of the day. There was a real atmosphere of openness, care for one another and good laughter.

And finally - the Autumn is upon us, and so it is a time for new beginnings and needs for Haley House and its work. As the colder weather starts to settle in, we are once again in need of winter clothes for the men. We also would most welcome food donations, canned goods, etc., for the kitchen. If you plan to bring any of these items to the House, the best time is the morning. If you need to come by at any other time, it is better to call us first so that someone can be here. We are also in need as well of volunteers - individuals or groups - who would be able to come in at least once a month to help cook, serve, and clean-up. If interested, please call Tom at 262-5781. And last of all, Haley House has a slide show which can be shown to interested groups. It depicts what we are about, our work and our vision. You may arrange for us to bring you the slide show and talk about the House by calling 262-5781 (ask for Beth). As always, thank you for your kind support and prayers.

"Prayer by itself is incomplete without penance. Penance directs us toward our goal of putting on the attitude of Jesus himself. Because we are all capable of violence we are never totally conformed to Christ and are always in need of conversion."

from the Bishops' Pastoral Letter,
The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response

In the recent Bishops' Pastoral letter, The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response, the bishops urge us to voluntarily fast and abstain on each Friday of the year as a tangible sign of our need and desire to do penance for the cause of peace. The practice should also be accompanied by works of charity and service toward our neighbors.

In this same spirit Ailanthus is calling upon people of faith to join in a fast on the first Monday of each month to repent for being the first (and only) nation on earth to use atomic weapons and our willingness to use them again and also to ask for knowledge of God's will for each of us in regards to our vocation as peace-makers.

Ailanthus vigils every Monday at the main entrance of Draper Weapons Laboratory on Broadway in Cambridge. Hence this first Monday was chosen as an additional day of fasting for peace.

by Thomas Farley

Fasting for Life at the Places of Death

For the last few years during Holy Week members of our community, Hased, have fasted and prayed at St. Francis Church (Melbourne).

In Holy Week Christians traditionally prepare themselves to embrace Christ's passion and death. We remember that Jesus was utterly centered on and responsive to the Father's will. He bore evil upon himself and transcended violence by the power of love. He resisted the powers of evil and continually aligned himself with the poor, broken, despised and weak and was lovingly attentive to their needs.

Our world is beset with suffering and injustice and yet we have developed a way of looking at the problems of the world that places them "outthere" eg. the nuclear arms race, unemployment, abortion, land rights, uranium mining... We feel very strongly that such issues are inter-connected, and that the same violence underlies them all. This tendency for us to isolate particular issues eases our conscience and hinders us from seeing our complicity in the injustices which permeate our society.

The threat of nuclear war, for example, is not an aberration for which a few "wicked" people in our society are responsible. Rather it follows logically from our lives committed to self-interest and self-betterment. We must stop misnaming "peace" as the freedom to exploit others, or as an uninterrupted means of grabbing the goods of the earth for ourselves, without responsibility to those who are starved because of our greed.

Our deepest convictions about poverty, injustice and violence are ultimately based on

a radical concern for life. We believe God has given us this gift of life and has entrusted each one of us with the responsibility to respect and honor its absolute preciousness.

In the past we have chosen to fast and pray at St. Francis precisely because we have seen how issues are inter-related, and how any real and lasting solutions to these problems must come from a conversion which, while an ongoing process, must take place in the concrete reality of our lives, such that no area of our life can be left untouched.

Thus we have felt first and foremost the need to be the Church in the totality of our lives - to try albeit poorly, to live simply, work creatively, pray together, share what we have and offer hospitality, all in the context of a daily rhythm of a life centered on the Eucharist.

Since the fast in Holy Week last year, we have set aside every Friday to fast and pray for peace in our world and for an increased clarity about what our response to this issue should be. While we still feel the need to deepen in that call to be Church, we feel also that we must address more specifically the underlying disrespect for life that permeates our culture and leaves us paralyzed.

Therefore, during Holy Week this year, we will keep up a vigil of prayer and fasting - sometimes at St. Francis Church (Melbourne), sometimes at the Fertility Clinic in East Melbourne (which carries out abortions) and sometimes at Watsonia Army Barracks in Greensborough (which is a vital part of the U.S. electronic anti-submarine warfare capacities). A couple of people from our house in Gippsland (eastern Victoria) will spend some time in

Fasting continued...

prayer and fasting at Omega Navigational Base.

We feel we must go to these places in humility and silence - not because we have all the answers to very complex problems, but because they are particular places of violence within a world of violence, because we feel our own complicity in that violence, and because we are yearning for the paralysis that we feel in the face of that violence to be lifted.

By fasting at this time we are calling to mind the crucified Christ and seeking to

acknowledge his presence in those who suffer. We are remembering Christ's call to a change of heart. Let us reflect on the ways in which we continue to crucify Jesus Christ daily, and let us pray sincerely and work actively for a change of heart - a change of lifestyle.

Reprinted from Mutual Aid, the newspaper of the Catholic Worker community in Brisbane, Australia, May 1984.



Upcoming Events:

Continuing in our Clarification of Thought fall series held on Friday evenings at 7:30 in the soupkitchen -

October 26 "Whatever you do don't forget to wipe your sword."
storytelling on peace & justice themes - Megan McKenna

November 9 "Land & People of the Rosebud Indian Reservation"
slides, journal readings, photographs by Skip Schiel

And... liturgies continue on the

1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 pm followed by dessert & coffee and our monthly staff meeting.

3rd Monday of each month @ 6 pm followed by a potluck supper.

And... we've begun a monthly book discussion group. In August we read "Good Country People", a short story by Flannery O'Connor and in September we read & discussed Leaves and Fishes, Dorothy Day's story of the Catholic Worker Movement.

The next discussion will be on Thursday October 25 @ 7pm

Please call to find out which book we're reading & join us.

The FIRST 3 MONTHS HALEY HOUSE'S YET-UNNAMED FARM

by
Lisa Mahar

UNDER-WATERING, OVER-WATERING, AND WHO-KNOWS-WHAT, MOSQUITOES. FARM LIFE HAS BEEN FULL OF THESE ALSO.

AS WE SAT ONE NIGHT RECENTLY, SHARING THE VISIONS WE HAVE FOR THE FARM AND THE HOPES AND DREAMS WE HAVE FOR OUR LIVES AND MINISTRIES HERE, ONE OF US GAVE FORM TO OUR MUSINGS BY IDENTIFYING FIVE CENTRAL REASONS FOR OUR BEING CALLED TOGETHER: 1) TO PROVIDE WARM HOSPITALITY TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST; 2) THROUGH GARDENING, TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE IDOR AND HOMELESS; 3) TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES THAT BRING ABOUT A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD; 4) TO BUILD A COMMUNITY AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH THE LARGER HALEY HOUSE FAMILY THAT SUSTAINS AND STRENGTHENS US TO SERVE OTHERS; 5) TO CREATE ONGOING AND REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL/JOYFUL WORSHIP. WE DON'T KNOW YET WHAT FORM AND FOCUS EACH OF THESE AREAS WILL TAKE, IN THE LIFE OF THIS COMMUNITY WE ARE AS YET ONLY FRESHLY WATERED SEEDS. WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED A TRUST IN ONE ANOTHER AND IN OUR PROCESS OF DISCERNING TOGETHER, SOMEHOW AS WE WORK TOGETHER, PRAY TOGETHER, PLAY TOGETHER WE WILL, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, MOVE TOGETHER IN THE WORK OF GOD. WE FEEL ESPECIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE EXTENDED COMMUNITY OF HALEY HOUSE IN THIS JOURNEY AND WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THAT BLESSING.

MAY 22: GIFTS ARE COMING IN FROM MANY KIND FOLKS. PEOPLE'S GENEROSITY IS SO ENCOURAGING. DRESSERS, MATTRESSES, TOYS, SHEETS, TOWELS, KITCHEN ITEMS, SEED-LINGS, LAWN FURNITURE, WOODSTOVES, EVEN THREE SAPPING APPLE TREES, THE UP STAIRS KITCHEN, TEMPORARY DIBS UNTIL DOWNSTAIRS IS FINISHED, IS THE HOUSEHOLD GATHERING ROOM AND SOMETIMES SEES AS MANY AS TWENTY PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND FOR MEAL TIME AS KIND FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS COME TO LEND A HAND.

MAY 30: TWO FEMALE KITTENS ARE GIVEN TO THE FARM BY OUR NEIGHBORS, THE ROBINSONS. WE NAMED THEM ELMER AND MACY AFTER TWO OF OUR FAVORITE PEACE ACTIVISTS: ELMER HAAS AND MACY MORSE. ALTHOUGH THE HUMAN ELMER AND MACY SEARCH TIRELESSLY FOR NON-VIOLENT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD, THAT DOES NOT STOP US FROM WONDERING ALOUD IF CATS CAN BE TRAINED TO KILL MOSQUITOES AND BLACK FLIES.

JUNE 5: FIVE DAYS OF HEAVY RAIN FOLLOWED PLANTING. ALTHOUGH FLOODING AND CROP DAMAGE IN THIS AREA OF THE STATE WAS EXTENSIVE, THE RAIN APPEARED TO HAVE DONE LITTLE DAMAGE TO OUR GARDENS. (THE WETTER THE BETTER FOR THE OLD MOSQUITO...) THE HERB GARDEN IS DOING WELL. WORK ON THE HOUSE CONTINUES WITH VISIBLE IMPROVEMENTS. WE ARE OUT MEETING PEOPLE FROM THE AREA AND HEARING SOME OF THE LOCAL HISTORY OF THE FARM - KNOWN IN WINCHINDON AS "THE OLD LA POINT PLACE."

JULY 18: WE MEET WITH SOME NEW FRIENDS TO DISCUSS FORMING A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUP FOR THE FALL. WE MEET A GROUP OF LAOTIAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE ENJOYED JOINING US FOR RECREATIONAL OUTINGS AND WE HOPE THEY WILL BE IN THE PLAYGROUP. THE GARDEN BEARS ITS FIRST FRUITS: LETTUCE, SWISS CHARD,

WARM DAYS, COOL NIGHTS, GENTLE BREEZES, WILD FLOWERS, BLUEBERRIES, LAUGHING KIDS, STRAWBERRY PICKING, BLOOMING, FLOWERING, FRUITFUL GARDENS, REFRESHING SWIMS AND INSPIRED SINGING. FARM LIFE HAS BEEN FULL OF SUCH THINGS, BUT READ ON.

BLAZING SUN, MOSQUITOES, TORRENTIAL RAINS, MOSQUITOES, HUNGRY WOOD-CHUCKS, MOSQUITOES, SEEDS LOST TO



MUSTARD GREENS AND BEET GREENS. THE GARDENS HAVE BEEN VISITED BY A NIGHT STALKER: BROCCOLI AND CABBAGE ARE ESPECIALLY HARD HIT, WE DETERMINE IT IS A WOODCHUCK AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGY FOR MORE FENCING, AND TETHERING THE DOG NEAR THE GARDENS AT NIGHT.

JULY 24: WE LEARN THAT MALE MOSQUITOES LIVE ON PLANTS AND THAT FEMALE MOSQUITOES LIVE ON ANIMALS. ALTHOUGH AS YET UNPROVEN WE PUT FORWARD THE HYPOTHESIS THAT 93% OF ALL MOSQUITOES ARE FEMALE. THE KITCHEN CABINET WORK IS COMPLETE, CUPBOARDS ARE BEING STAINED AND WAXED, SOON IT CAN BE PAINTED. WE BUY A FARM VEHICLE, A TRUCK WITH THE HELP OF FUNDS RAISED FROM THE WALK FOR HUNGER. IT HAS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE AND A SNOW PLOW. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO HAUL WOOD AND MANURE AND HELP PEOPLE TO MOVE, WITH IT WE CAN EASILY BRING PRODUCE TO HALEY HOUSE. WE FEEL VERY GRATEFUL TO THE WALK FOR HUNGER FOLKS.

JULY 31: THE SUMMER IS HALF OVER. WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. THE HOUSE IS GETTING ATTENTION, THE GARDENS ARE PRODUCING, WE DELIVERED OUR FIRST LOADS OF PRODUCE TO HALEY HOUSE. WE ARE GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS. WE ARE GROWING AS A COMMUNITY. WE HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF GRACE IN OUR LIVES. WE STILL DON'T HAVE A NAME. WE STILL DO HAVE MOSQUITOES. WE HAVE DISCOVERED A BIBLE PASSAGE THAT IS BECOMING IMPORTANT AS WE STRUGGLE TO DISCERN THE PATH BEFORE US:

If you do away with the yolk,
the clenched fist, the wicked word.
If you give your bread to the hungry,
And relief to the oppressed,

Your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.
Yahweh will always guide you,
Giving you relief in desert places.

He will give strength to your bones
And you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never run dry.

Isaiah
58:10-11

