



Rochester Catholic Worker

Our email address has changed to: st.joes@frontier.com

Rochester, New York — Winter 2016-17

Please join us as we celebrate St. Joseph's House 75th anniversary.

We moved into 402 South Ave in 1941, and thanks to your support we are still practicing the works of mercy and working towards creating a "new society in the shell of the old". We are the oldest continually operating Catholic Worker House in the world, so we are planning two days of events. We hope to see you there!

Friday, September 23rd 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Homeless March: Meet in St. Joe's Parking lot, 402 South Ave and join us as we walk to Washington Square Park. We will be passing a few places where people experiencing homelessness lay their heads and will finish with a protest rally at the park. We will head back to St. Joe's House for a post-protest meal!

Friday, September 23rd 7:00 PM at the South Wedge Mission (125 Caroline St.)



Martha Hennessy

Tom Cornell and Martha Hennessy Roundtable Discussion: The Catholic Worker Movement's Past, Present, and Future. Tom Cornell is an associate editor of the Catholic Worker and a deacon in the Catholic Church. He is retired and living at the Peter Maurin Farm in Marlboro, New York. Mr. Cornell was a close friend of Dorothy Day. Martha Hennessy is Dorothy Day's granddaughter and splits her time between her family in Vermont and the New York City Catholic Worker. We look forward to hearing about their perspectives on the Catholic Worker Movement and its future. Please join us for this important discussion.

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Tom Cornell

Reflections on the 75th Anniversary celebration - Rev. Chava



Tent Mass

We gathered in a tent in the parking lot at St Joe's to celebrate 75 years at 402 South Ave. - of this house. That's a lot of love and service!

It was a day of joyful reunions. Lots of Catholic Worker couples! Michael and Carolyn Ruggiero were there after many years away. Sarah and Kevin Foos, and their daughter Nella were there, and Michael Hazel and Audra Borden, just a week before their wedding. Seeing them all called to mind others not there, like Eli and Faith Yewdall, and Joe and Caroline Lavoie. Come work at St Joe's! It's good for your love life!

We celebrated Mass under the tent. The House of Mercy Gospel choir led the singing with much joy. Fr Bob Wirth invited us all to tell about the way others were serving God at St Joe's, and we had a great time talking about each other. Memories of past service, as well as things that are happening now. It's good to build each other up like that.

I was sitting towards the back, feeling many things. When you've been a part of a community for nearly thirty years, it's like your family – joy and pain all mixed up together. At one point during the Mass I became aware that Joseph Moore



Chava with Pat and Richard Manix

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Father Wirth and Guest

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was standing behind me. Joe's fiancée, Skye, had been in the hospital when they were supposed to be married. So I hugged him, cried a little, and was glad he was there with us because that's community --- with

each other in the hard times and the good times, sometimes at the same time.

After Mass, lunch. Peg Gefell fed us all. The line went across the parking lot. More old friends arrived. We looked at old photos, added names to a long list of everyone who has ever been a part of the live-in community. We managed to remember quite a few. Know this, if you've left: we remember you, we honor your service here.

People were dancing. Bob Riley served as DJ and the dancing went on, this beautiful afternoon of reunions. There was an entire leftover cake. Peg asked me if I knew any migrant farmworkers who might enjoy it. So I took it with me when



Lunch is served

I left. That night I drove out to share it with some folks, - told them Peg's message of thanks for their work, because without them we would have no food.

And that's community. We dance, we cry, we remember. We treasure each other, and share and serve. We forgive, seventy times seven times. As Joseph Moore has said so many, many times: "It's a wonderful gift."

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Saturday, September 24th Mass at St. Joe's (402 South Ave) 10 AM: Please join us as we celebrate Mass in our parking lot under the tent! Father Larry Tracy and Father Bob Wirth will be our celebrants along with the House of Mercy Gospel Choir!

Saturday, September 24th St. Joe's House 11 AM – 2 PM: Please help us celebrate 75 years by joining us for a meal, memories, fellowship and dancing. We will also be discussing current poverty issues facing our community and how our Catholic Worker house is responding to this local crisis. We also hope that after seven decades of continual operation you will be sure to run into old friends and make new ones!

"What we would like to do is change the world--make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do." -Dorothy Day

Reflections, The Catholic Worker and Rochester

- Timothy Weider, grandson of Theresa Weider

Dorothy Day and Theresa Weider were soul sisters. Both lived radical love and reached out to serve the dispossessed. Dorothy in New York City, and Theresa in Rochester.

838 Westfall Road as an upstate refuge for Dorothy and Peter Maurin. Dorothy visited to rest and, when Peter was ill, Dorothy sent him to **838, Mother Weider's** to heal.

838 Westfall was just up the road from the turn of the century "insane asylum" and, yards away, the Penitentiary: forbidding red and grey brick buildings with barred and darkened windows. Residents in their grey uniform clothes worked the adjacent fields that provided their food.

838 Westfall housed a family with 6 children, at times grandchildren, and a "Christ Room".

When the homeless came down the road and knocked on the door, they were invited to join the family, resting in the Christ Room, until ready to move on to a new found home in the Worker network.

When the local Bishop heard of Theresa's plans for a home for unsupported young mothers, he called in her husband to admonish that he keep an eye on his wife.

The soul sisters made the male driven institutional church uncomfortable. Dorothy and Theresa incarnated a Love, as Jesus of Nazareth, that was compassionately personal, unconditionally healing, and underpinned by a contemplative being, not simply activist doing, the Gospel.

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A “Pre-History” of St. Joe’s, 1933-1940 - Harry Murray

In 1933, a young priest, Benedict Ehmann, attended Solidarity School of Catholic Action at Fordham University, where he met Dorothy Day, whom he described as “the talk of the Summer School.” He convinced the Catholic Women’s Club to invite her to speak in Rochester that fall.

It took several years, however, before they actually established a House. The July 1937 *Catholic Worker* reported that there were three study groups operating in the city, distributing *The Catholic Worker* and holding “clarification of thought” meetings with speakers such as Benedict Ehmann, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin. The St. Andrews group began working with the Black community, focusing especially on children’s education and recreation.

In late 1937, the group was allowed to share use of the Peter Claver House at 13 Rome Street. The Rochester CW’ers confined their works of mercy largely to the colored folk; the Peter Claver house was used as a distribution point for clothes. Their spiritual director by that time was Fr. George Vogt”.

During 1938, the Catholic Worker group at Nazareth College, published at least three issues of a newsletter.

In 1939, the Worker groups opened their own house of hospitality at 576 North Clinton Ave. Bishop Kearney blessed the new House: St. Joseph the Worker. An early report said they were feeding about five “ambassadors” [their early term for homeless guests] a day, but numbers soon climbed to more than 100. During the early months, there were no live-in workers. The house was run by a “Staff of Ambassadors.”

In about a year, they rented a church hall on Elmira Street from St. James Episcopal Church, where they got their first live-in workers, Christy Joyce and Tom Scahill. They served around 250 meals a day until 402 South Ave was purchased in 1941. And the rest was history.

We owe our founders a great debt. Although the language used in letters and documents seems old-fashioned by 21st Century standards, the early concern with African-Americans and women, as well as homeless men, set directions for social justice struggles that St. Joes must expand upon within our current context.



Excerpts from “The Death of Mother Weider” by Dorothy Day, The Catholic Worker, September, 1952



Theresa Weider

I did not report another event—the greatest event in the life of our dear friend Theresa Weider, of Rochester, New York, and that was her death! And this is the way we should put it, because, “life is changed, not taken away,” as we are assured in the preface for the Mass.

When she was growing up as a girl, in a small New York town, when she was loving and marrying and having babies, when she and her husband were struggling together to make ends meet, and to care for others as well as themselves, no doubt she thought countless other events were the greatest, but when the moment came for her to lay down her life, all that had gone before seemed like a



Dorothy Day

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Spiritual Poverty - James Murphy

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality kicked off our **75-year anniversary celebration** with a march against poverty. A group of 50 people walked from 402 South to Washington Square Park where many people lay their heads each night. The residents of the Dorothy Day House built a coffin to carry the spirit, memory and belongings of our guest T-man with us. Last June 2015, we learned of his death from a three sentence story in the local paper.

Somehow this man had flown under our radar and the other homeless providers. Several days after his death we found a picture of him from his Facebook page. We discovered he had lunch at St. Joe's only days before.

His camp site was behind the abandoned psychiatric center off of Elmwood Ave. The State had still not cleaned up his old camp site. We did thirteen months after T-man's passing. We mourn the hardened hearts of our community. We mourn for our silent churches and complicit media. We mourn the money that divides us. We mourn our democracy that is owned by the few and most affluent. We mourn our quiet acceptance of being captured by greed and fear.

We mourn our own fear and trepidation to admonish our government and spiritual institutions that do not attend to the root causes of our community's poverty. We grieve for a society that does not see the relationship between this dead man and the false idols of materialism, consumerism, and war making that permeates our society. Above all, we mourn the spiritual poverty that is far greater than the material poverty of our times. A SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY COMMUNITY WOULD NOT ALLOW SUCH TRAGEDY AND MISERY TO EXIST.



Coffin

(cont. from Page 3)

preparation for that greatest of all happenings, facing her Creator.

Her funeral was a tremendous one in the history of Rochester. It is seldom that a simple woman, a mother and housewife, had one like it. Not in the numbers that were there, and the thousands that crowded to her wake over a period of three days so that the house, the outdoor shrine and the porches became banks of flowers, but because at the Requiem which was a solemn high Mass, there were crowds of priests not only in the sanctuary but in the body of the Church. She was loved by clergy and laity alike.

Mother Weider, as everyone called her, was our first friend in Rochester, and we have known her since the beginning of our work. She was Peter Maurin's friend as well as mine, and was the first to invite him to speak in upper New York State, and helped to nurse him at her home during the last year of his life. Her heart encompassed the world, especially since one of her sons was killed in the Battle of the Bulge and is buried overseas.

She was one of the founders of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality in Rochester, and her bounty did much to keep the house going over the years. Many were the sick and despairing she took into her own home, and her example led others to do the same.

During the war when others were afraid to distribute the Catholic Worker with its condemnation of war, conscription, the sale of war bonds and stamps, she took it bravely to different parishes and distributed it at the doors of the Churches.

Gratitude As we enter the holiday time of our year, our heads and hearts are filled with images and feelings of hospitality. We hope to spend time with family and friends sharing meals, sharing warm homes, sharing conversations, sharing gifts, and sharing our love.

We, at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, want to pause to express our profound gratitude to all those in our large extended family: our benefactors, our volunteers, our guests, our workers. We know that each of you contributes immeasurably to our ability to create hospitality and warmth both physically and spiritually.

You make it possible for us to serve a hot meal every day. You make it possible for us to provide shelter and refuge. You make it possible for us to offer clothing, socks and shoes. All the many personal connections and supports individuals seek when they enter this House come through you.

Jesus showed us many times what is shared miraculously multiplies and ultimately returns to nourish the giver. **We hope that what you share with us; your time, your treasure, your prayers, or your company, returns to you many times over.** We are very grateful for you. Enjoy a Blessed Christmas season.

Copy of our Annual report may be obtained, upon request, from St Joe's or from the NYS Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, NY,NY, 10271.

Join 80 For Haiti - Sarah Brownell

If 80 people pledge \$10/month we can keep the food program for the elderly secure!

The Pen ak Pwason Catholic Worker Program in Haiti:

- Feeds 100 people in Borgne, Haiti twice a week and provides laundry and bathing soap
- Provides needed security and community to the lives of the elderly and disabled
- Purchases local food, keeping money in the community and supporting farmers
- Provides volunteer opportunities for youth to develop leadership and build generational bonds



Join 80 for Haiti by:

1. Sending a \$10 check monthly to: Pen ak Pwason, PO Box 16760, Greece, NY 14612-9998
2. Using the "Donate Here!" button on Facebook page (Pen ak Pwason Program of St. Joseph's House)

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As the Worker Movement quietly grew, in contrast, the Church established institutional charities. As they grew, those charities inevitably bureaucratized, further differentiating a contemplative, compassionate, unconditional love from a policy driven, bounded, and structured service.

Our challenge lies with those institutions whose bureaucratic procedures constrain genuine human compassion, and whose depersonalizing policies leave behind a new community of the disqualified and dispossessed.

The challenge of the Worker Movement today: to affirm the sanctity of the human service Worker and to invite them into a contemplative, spiritual community that encourages their capacity for compassionately personal, unconditional healing, as was Jesus of Nazareth.

The Worker Movement, as always, is to change institutional oppression of those in spiritual, social, and economic pain, both the served, and the worker.

In humility, let us model renewed ways of ameliorating the growing poverty, both spiritual and physical, in our midst.

These thoughts were shared with Tom Cornell and Martha Hennessey of the NYCatholic Worker during a discussion on the Catholic Worker Movement's Past, Present and Future, the first evening of St. Joe's 75th anniversary celebration.

Marriages ... Workers - Tim Sigrist

Mark Carver and Linda Scabilius Carver – 80's

Paul Hetzel and Beth McCarron – 80's

Phil and Agnus Barber – 80's

Marty Lynch and Teresa Snell – 80's

Caroline and Mike Ruggerio – 90's

Judy Thorsland and Andre Hendricks – 90's

Sarah and Knowledge – 80's

Sarah Brownell and Kevin Foos – 2000's

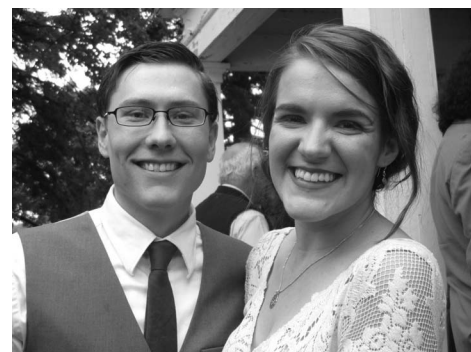
Eli and Faith Ewdall – 2000's

Joe and Caroline Lavoie – 10's

Mike and Audra Hazel – 10's



Mike and Audra Before



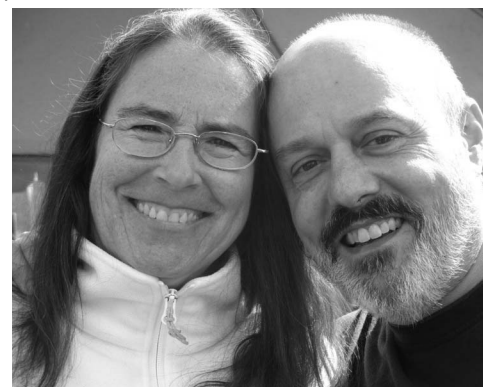
Mike and Audra Hazel



CW'ers at the wedding reception



Sara Brownell and Nella and Kevin Foos



Caroline and Mike Ruggerio

ROC the Day: Communitywide Day of Giving

The 6th annual Communitywide Day of Giving is November 29th. We will be listed under ***Human Services/ Shelters & homeless service.*** Thank you.

2016-2017 Shelter Volunteers Needed:

Let the Jubilee Year of Mercy live on by being an overnight shelter volunteer at St. Joe’s House of Hospitality during the cold winter months. We need people to cover 2-4 nights per month. Volunteers arrive at St. Joe’s at 7:30 PM, spend the night and leave early the next morning. Many volunteers bring their work clothing, shower here and go directly to work the next morning. Interested ??? contact Jasmin at 353-9882.

“...it is important to be able to make people welcome; this is something even more beautiful than any kind of ornament or decoration. I say this because when we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them – some food, a place in our homes, our time – not only do we no longer remain poor: we are enriched.” -**Pope Francis**

WE INVITE YOU TO BE AN ADVOCATE....

...for a former chronically homeless person who has a very nice apartment at Dorothy Day

House; but he/she needs an advocate to walk with him/her during this life changing transition.

This is a very rewarding volunteer experience: one to three hours per week. You’ll have support and security. This is a ministry of St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality; (Day House is across the street).

Call Tim, 314-1962, to explore this opportunity.



Dorothy Day House

The Foot & Hair Clinic - Debbie Sigrist

It’s hard to believe, but the simple **Foot Clinic** has been in operation at St. Joseph’s House for 23 years! What began with three nurses and some basins of water has grown to a ministry of many volunteers of all ages and walks of life who enjoy getting to know the guests of St. Joe’s through washing and massaging feet and cutting hair. We are in **need of financial donations** (no size is too small) to maintain our supplies of socks, towels, hair cutting supplies, foot wash and creams.

C A L E N D A R

Oct. 24 – 28 closed for maintenance/cleaning

Oct. 30 – closed

Oct. 31 – Halloween costumes encouraged

Nov. 1 winter emergency shelter opens

Nov. 24 Thanksgiving dinner

Nov. 25 closed

Dec.18 Sunday, Foot & Hair Clinic

Dec. 25 Christmas dinner & exchange of gifts

Dec. 26 closed

March 12 Sunday, Foot & Hair Clinic

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality
Rochester Catholic Worker Community

Some of us live in houses; some of us live on the street; some of us have a room of our own, or a bed and a place to keep; some of us have a cot or piece of a couch or patch of floor to return to each night; some hold special positions of power and roles with specific responsibilities, some do whatever they can. Our aim is to try each day to "build a new society in the shell of the old" as we practice the various works of mercy and labor with whatever resources, physical as well as spiritual, that we have been given at the time.

George McVey - Editor	Adam Uzelac
Tim Sigrist	Anna Horras
Harry Murray	Peg Gefell
Rev. Chava Redonnet	Samantha Huselstin
Don Strickland	Jasmin Reggler
Diana Nielsen	James Murphy
James Arnold	Mike Hazel
Sarah Brownell	Audra Hazel
Rich Behrend	Ralph Hemmerich
Tom Malthaner	

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Please let us know if you do not wish to receive our publication.

House Needs:

Mens Underwear (32-44)	Jelly/Jam	Hoodies	Pillows
Prayers	BLEACH	39-gal. Trash Bags	Large Jackets
Butter	Toilet Paper	Razors	Gloves/Hats
Laundry Soap Powder	Coffee/Mugs	BATH TOWELS	Toothbrushes/Paste
Sugar	Single Sheets	Athletic Socks	Sleeping Bags
Boots/Sneakers			
Jeans/Cords			

Volunteer Opportunity

Help Staff the Night Shelter.

*Will Train.
Can Sleep on the Job!
Plenty of choice hours.
Good supervision.*

Call Jasmin at 353-9822.

CELEBRANTS

for the 5pm Tuesday Ecumenical Service

We suggest that you call the House in case the service time or celebrant has been changed

- 11-15. Geno
- 11-22. Rev Jim Morasco
- 11-29. Donna Ecker
- 12-6. Zainab Marilia s-b
- 12-13. Minister James Arnold
- 12-20. Geno
- 12-27. Stergios Skatharoudis
- 1-3. Deacon Bill Coffey
- 1-10. Rev. Matthew Nickoloff
- 1-17. Fr. Jim Callan