



Appalachian Experience

St. Joseph's Housing Repair Program

Giving Stewards

We did some hard work, met new people, learned new things & had a great time!

For those of you who don't know, St. Joseph's, Mantua, sent a group to St. Joseph's in Clintwood, Virginia, to take part in Sister Jean Korkisch's Housing Repair Program this summer. Helping low-income residents maintain decent housing for their families, the group worked on several housing repair jobs both inside and out.

Appalachian Experience 2003 began Saturday, June 28, with the group meeting at Bob Evans Restaurant in Streetsboro for a send off courtesy of Fr. Tom. This year's participants included Bill Curtin, Dan Fejes, Mike, Barb & Courtney Shilling, and George, Kathi, James & Jeff Trares. After a hearty breakfast, most caravanned the 400 mile trip south & arrived at the Dorothy Baker House about 4:00 p.m. (Shillings arrived Sunday). Saturday & Sunday's activities included settling in, planning & shopping for the week's meals, and attending Mass. Jarvis, a past recipient of repairs on his family's home who now helps Sr. Jean, also introduced the owners on which whose homes the work will be done.

Although, this year's group was smaller than previous ones, the nine representatives of our parish accomplished quite a bit of work on two different homes. The ladies worked on the kitchen of Susan Adams, a divorced mother of a 15 year old son Jake, under the guidance of one of two women employed by the program, Leann. Jobs at her trailer included painting newly installed cabinets and the walls & ceiling, and lining the inside of the cabinets with scrap linoleum after taking care of an ant problem. Bill installed GFCI outlets in the kitchen & bath and helped to replace the front door. Later in the week, trim was added to a kitchen window & front door. Finally, repairs were made to the screen door. Plans are to have other groups replace the kitchen linoleum & hang a wallpaper border.

The Baker's \$300 trailer was the second project on which the group worked with another program employee, Debbie. This young family of Delmar, who was disabled, his wife Diane, who has a part-time job at a nursing home, and their children, 11 year old Julius, and 8 year old twins Denise & Deanne



Appalachian Experience 2003 Group with Ken Childress

needed multiple improvements on their home. When applying for help, they only asked for skirting for around the trailer. Sr. Jean discovered their floors were collapsing, the water heater was falling in, the roofed leaked & they were in need of more space (the parents sleep in the living room). Our group removed old carpeting, reinforced a bedroom floor, removed & replaced the bathroom sink & cabinet, put down luan & linoleum on the kitchen, hallway & bathroom floors, fixed kitchen plumbing (dishes were being done in the bathtub), added a drain pipe to the refrigerator, installed closet shelf brackets, lined inside of cabinets with scrap linoleum, installed a door for hot water heater area, replaced a fuse box door & repaired electrical outlets, carpeted the girls'

bedroom, caulked, installed molding, patched porch roof leaks, finished putting insulation under the trailer, and added temporary steps for the back door. Other groups throughout the summer will tackle putting skirting around outside of the trailer & adding a 10' x 20' room off the back of the unit.

One evening, volunteers enjoyed a picnic supper hosted by parishioners followed by entertainment from singer & storyteller, Ken Childress. The Trares family stayed for Clintwood's 4th of July festivities which included a Kiwanis pancake breakfast, Civil War demonstration, entertainment, veteran's & community parades, juggler & kids' rides, food & other concessions & a wonderful fireworks display.

Participants genuinely feel a sense of accomplishment helping the truly needy of this area of our country be safe, warm & dry. Not only did they work hard but they acquired friendships & a camaraderie with those they worked for & with. You are welcome to join us in future trips as we follow Jesus' example and use our gifts to reach out to others!

Watch for Future Opportunities to Come Share the Excitement & Stories From This Year's Experience

To Be Catholic Means To Be Mission

St. Joseph's Appalachian Experience is a mission experience which is based on the belief that to be Catholic means to be mission. Members of the Parish Community of St. Joseph in Mantua, Ohio, have been participating in this outreach effort since 1998. Sister Jean Korkisch, CSC,

who is based at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Clintwood, Virginia, coordinates the Housing Repair Program. With her volunteer staff she lines up projects suited to the make-up and skills of each work group. Participants do a variety household repairs at owner occupied homes of low-income

residents of southwestern Virginia and eastern Kentucky.

Volunteers should be prepared to do some hard work, meet new people, and learn new things. Cultural events, local site-seeing & discussions around Appalachian issues are also a part of the experience.



Sr. Jean Korkisch, CSC
P.O. Box 835
Clintwood, VA 24228

ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSING REPAIR PROGRAM

Phone: (276) 926-4328
Email: sjbcsc@mounet.com
Dorothy Baker House:
(276) 835-8866

**Offering Home Repairs
to the Low-Income
People of Appalachia**

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

P.O. Box 1250

Clintwood, VA 24228

Parish Phone: (276) 926-5451

Parish Fax: (276) 926-6518

Parish email: sjdickenson@naxs.net

St. Joseph's Church is located on Main Street in Clintwood, Virginia, the county seat of Dickenson County.

Our community and its people have been greatly impacted by the coal, gas and timber industries, and absentee ownership. Despite the poverty, and land and water devastation, we are determined to assume control of our destiny.

St. Joseph's is one of several churches in the area that has formed a ministerial association to meet some of the needs of local residents. Our housing program offers low-income people home repairs and engages the community in discussions around housing related issues and actions.

How Can I Get Involved?

Our parish is planning to send a group again next summer, the week of June 26 through July 3, 2004. Average-sized, "workable" groups are 15-20 people. Adults & teens are encouraged to participate. It is suggested that youth groups have at least one adult for every five youth & participants be of high school age or older (junior high youth may attend with a parent). If you have ever pounded a nail, sawed wood, laid tile, painted, hung wallpaper, or performed ordinary repairs & maintenance on your own home, you can handle the work. You won't be asked to do anything beyond your strength or skill level. Safety is of primary concern. Inexperienced individuals/groups may wish to hold a "hands on" training session to familiarize them with repair work. If you would like to be a part of next year's effort, watch for details in the bulletin early in 2004 or call coordinator Marie Minard (274-8007) or the Parish Office (274-2253).

Financial backing for the program & patronage of fundraising efforts are also essential. Fees for volunteer groups are \$150.00 per person which covers lodging, materials for work projects, and related expenses. Food expenses of approximately

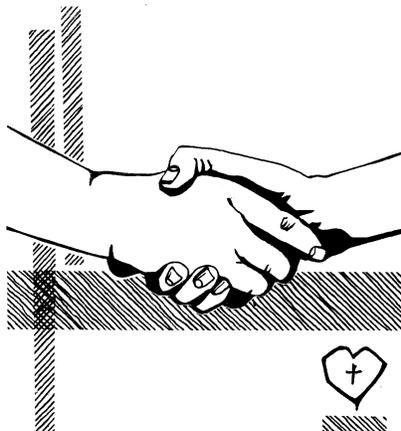
\$50.00 per person plus gas money for the trip down & to work sites (it's about 400 miles to Clintwood) are also required. The parish & participants help to defray these costs but the group would prefer to earn most of their way through fundraisers & donations. Any support you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Although the majority of supplies are purchased in the Clintwood area to help support the local economy, there are some

items that are used continually. Ongoing needs of the St. Joseph Housing Repair Program include nails, work gloves, dusk masks, rags, and good paint brushes. The Dorothy Baker House is a fully equipped household, however groups do need to bring their own paper supplies, trash bags, personal items, dish soap & laundry detergent.

If you or someone you know has a working computer that they would like to donate to a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, Sr. Jean would be most grateful to be put in touch with them. She may be reached at (276) 926-4328.

Of course, your prayers & words of encouragement for the group's successful efforts & safe trip are most appreciated. God bless.



"Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

— Matthew 5:16