

The Jerusalem Star

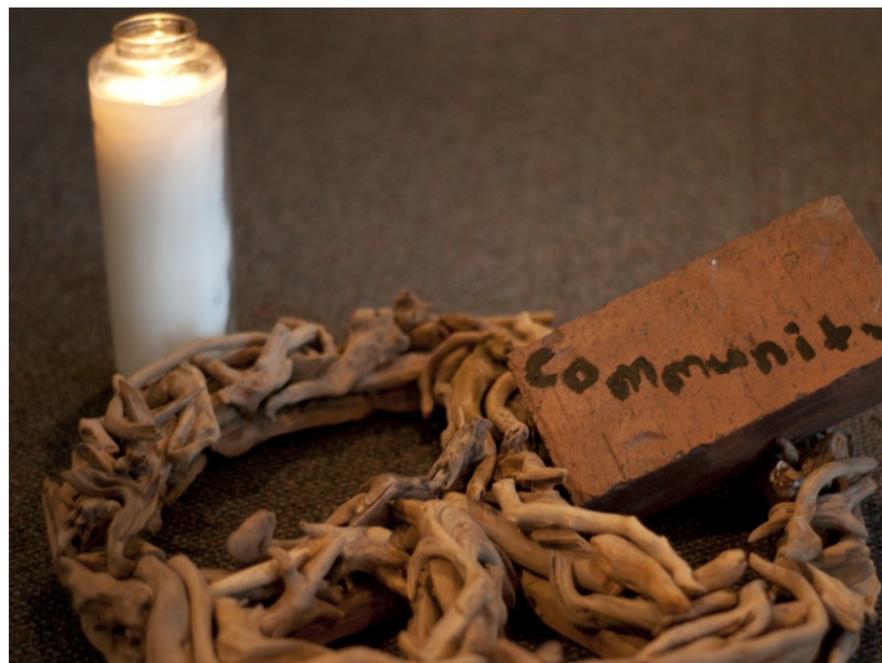
Fall/Winter 2013:

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Faith and Church

The air is once again crisp and cool, not just in the morning but throughout the whole day! Leaves are changing colors, the chickens are molting their old feathers, it is dark when we wake for prayer and butternut squash soup is filling our bellies for dinner. Fall is here! Jerusalem Farm's fiscal year runs from October 1st- Sept 30th and so this time is also a great time to clean around the farm, organize our tools which received much use, reflect on our past year and plant winter greens while also removing plants which have given to us so generously throughout the summer. As Catholics, fall also brings our liturgical year to an end and ushers in a whole new year.

This fall I have been spending time focusing on this last liturgical year which was declared a "year of faith". I am so blessed to be living in a community which prioritizes living out one's faith and allows us as individuals to explore what that means. Throughout the year



we give many "tours" of the farm. We give tours to college students, youth groups, neighbors, and interested individuals who somehow heard about what we were doing and want to see our place to come to a better understanding of what it is that we do. If the individuals visiting have time, I like to share this excerpt from a document written by Pope Paul VI called "Evangelii Nuntiandi" (evangelism in the modern world).

"Above all the Gospel must be proclaimed by witness. Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with the efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in

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It's not too late to experience Jerusalem Farm in 2014!

We have four weekend retreats, as well as multiple volunteer service week openings in 2014. We'd love to see you, please call (816.421.1855) or email (volunteer@jerusalemfarm.org) for more information!

2014 Retreat Weekends

Looking for an oasis in the middle of your busy life? Interested in learning more about who we are and how we live here at Jerusalem Farm? Several times throughout the year we host weekend retreats, the themes of which vary and echo the four cornerstones of the Farm. They offer time for prayer and relaxation as well as time for learning and working with your hands.

Our first 2014 Retreat Weekend is January 18-20, and will be centered around social justice issues and the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Info on the other three weekends will be available soon!



Volunteers from Chicago and San Francisco working in the garden

Faith in a Book

October 11, 2012, I started reading the Magnificat Year of Faith Companion, which promotes an increase of faith with a "page-a-day guide that offers a special 'something' for each day of the year." Each day I was given some kind of inspiration to my faith from reading profiles of men and women of the Bible, reflections based on scripture, essays written about faith, meditations, prayers and poetry that portray faith, and different devotionals. I started off the year embracing the idea that my faith was going to increase and I was not going to simply be content with my relationship with God. I was ready to grow and improve.

So what have I learned from this year of faith through the companion? Faith is humility. It is willing to become small just like God, who humbles himself to make it possible for us to see Him. By stepping myself out of the position of trying to control all aspects of my life, such as my fu-

ture, I was able to listen to the path that would be more pleasing to God. Which at times has not always been easy wanting to fulfill my own desires for myself during my own time but as Father Vincent Nagle talks about Habakkuk on March 21: "a relationship with God does not consist simply of passively ceding to his inscrutable will, but also risking our own desires, doubts, and fears in our dialogue with Him."

Faith is sacrifice; sacrificing my own personal beliefs for a greater belief, sacrificing worldly goods for the riches God has promised us. As stated



YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013

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Towards a New Faith

“There is none righteous, no, not one”

In my last year at college, faith came suddenly, and without time for preparation. God was so wonderful and clear that at the time (and up until recently), I somehow thought that I understood everything there was to understand about the religious life. This mentality is a reflection of my entire life's work. Success had always come easy and required little effort, so it seemed natural that faith, too, would just fall into my lap and – if I wanted it to – stay put. Only now after it has all unraveled am I humbled enough to acknowledge how naive I was and use my old spiritual life as fertile ground for a new approach.



The past two and a half years at Nazareth and Jerusalem Farm have been immensely formative in both my personal and spiritual lives. I've learned so many skills that I never thought I would have, and I've met some of the most inspiring, generous people. These things all came and went so naturally, and have left a deep imprint on the person that I am becoming each day. I genuinely shudder to think where I would be today without this influence. Another thing I've gleaned is an appreciation for the challenge of integrating Christian theory and practice. This lesson came the hard way.

When I first moved to Nazareth Farm I thought to myself what I think at least some volunteers who pass through think: “how can you not live the Gospels in this place?” I took it one step further: “why doesn't everyone just listen to Jesus like I do?” I looked at the life and teachings of Jesus and subconsciously considered them mastered after I had read a

few books and jumped headfirst into a busy life of direct service. Jesus' teachings were just another obstacle that I was out to prove I could understand without trying too hard or putting too much of myself into. I didn't understand how faith could be lived any other way, yet I didn't fully understand the implications, sacrifices, and basic requirements of the faith life I was living.

All of the life-changing experiences I had at Nazareth Farm and Jerusalem Farm are, of course real, but only recently did I realize that I was neglecting my personal spiritual life. The same service, community, prayer, and simplicity slowly became more and more difficult. God felt distant, mundane and unable to produce the emotional highs and fresh perspectives on life that I felt at the beginning of my journey.

After much self-evaluation and some help from our community's study of the Enneagram, I realized that I hadn't really been listening to God's call in my life. I had formed my own rigid idea

of a Christian lifestyle in my head and I set out to live it without checking in with my soul. I'm so grateful to have lived at the Farms, but it's clear now that my wife Kristina, our soon-to-be-born baby and I are being called to live a “normal” life in a different way. Next spring we'll move back to Michigan, where we'll have a baby, a house, a car, bills to pay, I'll have a day job and Kristina will work hard around the home. It still sounds a little weird after having lived in such a beautiful, fundamentally different way for the past few years, but we're confident that the cornerstones will have a big place in our life. Our cross is to find our own ways to follow Jesus without being immobilized by the comfort and isolation that so often come with a single family home.

As I write this, the twenty-one year old version of myself, the guy who thought he knew every-

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-thing, is lovingly calling me a sell-out. That part of me is still learning that we all have our own faith journey, and comparing mine to yours or yours to mine is an injustice to the unique breath that God put into each one of us. Through the countless amazing people I've met over the last three years, I've experienced that there are an equal number of ways to live the Word. So as I embark upon a path

that years ago I would have called a compromise of values, my soul rejoices with a new glimpse of peace and clarity and renews my connection with the Farm and all of the beautiful work that we're able to do here. It's been wonderful getting to know all of you over my three years, God bless and please stop by to see us before we leave!

-Zack

“Those who love father or mother more than me aren't worthy of me. But those who abandon father, mother, brother, sister for my sake...will have a hundredfold...” – that is, they'll love themselves and their poverty a hundred times more; they'll embrace their misery with mercy a hundred times more; they'll desire, aspire, walk a hundred times more impetuously toward their destiny. To love your woman or man...a hundred times more; to love the things at your hands a hundred times more; to forgive yourself, your neighbor...a hundred times more; to embrace the world a hundred times more...”

-June 27, Meditation, Father Julian Carron

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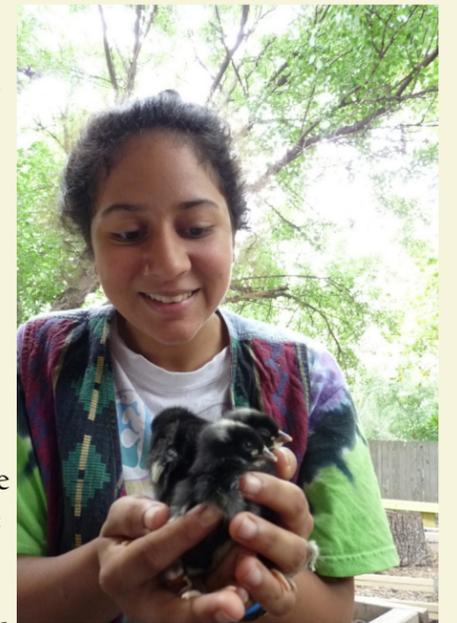
by Fr. John Dominic Corbett on April 27, “we are terrified of drawing near to God because we are sure that, in one way or another, he will put us to death... Christ wants to live in us so that we can finally become the people He already knew us to be.” As I have drawn near to Him during this year, I have found that I have had to sacrifice and let go. Let go of the guilt that I had for not being called to do service in the places where my loved ones were. I had to let go of fulfilling the ideas that others had for me. Throughout this year, I even found myself at several times looking at the things that I found myself attached to, whether it be hobbies, relationships or ideas. And so I went through a process of letting go or changing the way certain things existed in my life.

It was in reading this book that I was able to allow my faith to be the reason why I made the decisions that I have made, because I have come to learn that faith and reason go hand in hand. Faith is also an act that reveals my true self, uniting me with my Creator. The idea that my faith has helped me in my decisions, and has revealed to me my true self is reflected in my life here at Jerusalem Farm. I found a place that allows me to live out the ideas my faith has revealed to me. As Venerable Louis of Granada from the book

says on March 20, “the more we love Him and the more we believe in him, the more perfect will be our charity and our faith”, prayer as a core to service, service as a testimony to universal love, community as a binding of one faith, and simplicity as a way of making space in my life for Him.

Faith, as Fr. John Dominic Corbett states on May 6, is not a “human act that pleases God, but a divine act in us to which we give consent.” So, as the Year of Faith starts to wind down, I still find myself still growing here at Jerusalem Farm, sharing in new ideas about faith in the community, while constantly reflecting and sharing from the Year of Faith Companion. This will be a book that I can go back to and start up again when I feel my faith is low or if I'm in need of a reminder to why I have chosen this path.

- Alishiya, a Sojourner at the Farm



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something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one.”

To me, this insight into Christian evangelism is really about what it means to be Christian: to live a life in community filled with hope, acceptance, mercy and concern for others. Every time I read this paragraph new things stand out to me and this time that “handful of Christians” is what I would like us all to reflect on. How are you a part of that “handful of Christians”? Is Pope Paul VI talking about your family, your church, your workplace? How do we as individuals participate in our broader community and by doing so “show our capacity for understanding and acceptance”? At Jerusalem Farm we are busy doing many things to create the life which we feel God is calling us all to live, and not just our small intentional community, but one that can be shared by all of us. We strive to create a life that permeates hope into all corners of our neighborhood. As Pope Francis stated in his recent encyclical Lumen Fidei (Light of Faith):

“For those early Christians, faith, as an encounter with the living God revealed in Christ, was indeed a “mother”, for it had brought them to the light and given birth within them to divine life, a new experience and a luminous vision of existence for which they were prepared to bear public witness to the end.”

As we enjoy this Fall may we experience and share this luminous vision of existence which comes from our faith.

- Jordan



We are actively seeking Community Members interested in living the cornerstones in Kansas City

Visit our website for more information!

Jerusalem Farm

520 Garfield Ave
Kansas City, MO 64124
www.jerusalemfarm.org

Prayer - Community - Service - Simplicity

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Jerusalem Farm is a Catholic Intentional community located in Kansas City, Missouri, built on the four cornerstones of Prayer, Community, Service and Simplicity. We strive to transform our lives and those around us through service retreat experiences, sustainable living and home repair.

Our Community:

Jessie, Jordan, & Nathaniel Schiele
Andrea & Abhi Dutt
Kristina & Zack DiVozzo
Sojourners
Alishiya Kapoor, Jeremy Ruzich

Our Board of Directors:

Dave Armstrong- *Chair*
Sr. Rose McLarney- *Secretary*
Bill Cordaro
James Cianciaruso
Jude Huntz
Ken Mayo
Regina Staves
John Summers
Fr. Bob Stone



Community Harvest

A big thank you to everyone who helped with or came to our Community Harvest in the Park event at Cliff Drive on October 5th! This includes our sponsors, the bands who played (Rob Foster and the Dudes, John Coakley and the Bluesicians, and the Burnt Ends, all of the vendors who came to the farmer’s market, the day volunteers from Group Ministries, and finally all of the friends, neighbors, past volunteers and curious passers-by who helped make this event a success.

We can’t wait to see you all again at next year’s Community Harvest in the Park!

Photos courtesy of Jeremy Ruzich Photography



Thank You to:

Fr. John Wandless
Employee Representation Services
Dan and Cheryl Schiele
Christopher Nieport
Sisters of Mercy
Ken and Jessica Mayo
Dalva Tavernari
Alice Foreman
Heidi Dittmer
Patricia Koenig
Brian and Karen Moore

for pledging to
our Planting Roots Campaign

Our Wishlist

- ✓ Ear Protection — \$15
- ✓ Long fitted twin sheets — \$20
- ✓ Norwex Enviro cleaning cloths (see amazon.com) — \$25
- ✓ Rubbermaid Easy-Find Containers

- ✓ Your pledge of \$393 for our Planting Roots Campaign!

For a complete list visit
www.jerusalemfarm.org