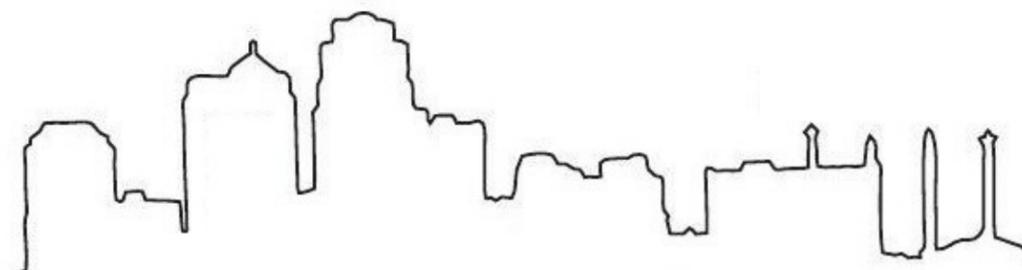


Jerusalem Farm

Avila University
11901 Wornall Rd
Kansas City, MO 64145
www.jerusalemfarm.org
Prayer - Community - Service - Simplicity

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The Jerusalem ★ Star

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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 Schiele (and son Nathaniel)
Andrea & Abhi Dutt Alice Foreman Jeremy Ruzich
Lisa Murawski (fall Sojourner)
Coming soon... Zack & Kristina DiVozzo

You can check out
www.jerusalemfarm.org
to get to know each of us, but we can't wait to meet YOU!
Come on down, up or over to our

Open House
Sept. 29th

All are welcome, details on

Our Board of Directors:

Dave Armstrong - *Board Chair*
Sr. Rose McLarney - *Secretary* Jude Huntz
Angela Torres Gina Staves Fr. Bob Stone
Ken Mayo Ken Fuenfhausen Bill Cordaro

Jerusalem Farm and this newsletter is sponsored by:



... continued from front page

- To all the board members, especially Jude Huntz and Sr. Rose McLarney, CSJ who sat in my office and supported the dream of the farm from the very beginning.
- To the many, many wonderful volunteers who have helped in countless ways already.

This is the story of the beginning of Jerusalem Farm. There is much more to the story, as the space of a newsletter doesn't allow me to get into more detail. But, it is my sincere hope that all of you will support, and hopefully, come and see your new home while becoming part of our story. Peace!

You've read how God has worked in our lives over the past year, but what about YOU? We would love to hear your stories of how you saw God in the past 12 months. Share them with us on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/JerusalemFarm

We'll print our favorites in the next newsletter!

We are still in need of some items including:

- 12" Ridgid Miter Saw \$300
- Commercial vacuum \$250
- 5-gal water coolers \$30
- Full size sheet pans \$8

We are also in need of monetary donations

For a complete list go to www.jerusalemfarm.org

By Dave Armstrong

It was neither a dark nor stormy night. It was a beautiful evening during family week at Nazareth Farm in West Virginia. Jordan and I were discussing the future. I asked if he'd be interested in coming to KC if anything popped up there. His answer was non-committal, but he said we could always talk about it. Little did I know that an innocent question would lead to a new farm- an urban farm.

August 23rd 2011 I received an e-mail from my good friend at the diocese indicating there was an old convent available for a non-profit organization to come in with a new idea. Is the Holy Spirit stepping in? I called Jordan and, in the true spirit of scriptural calling, he said no. However, as I continued to pray about it I still felt Jordan and Jessie would be perfect. Sure enough, Jordan called me back the next day, after praying about it, and they were interested in coming to see the property. It seemed as though God was very clearly speaking and telling us to start a farm in KC.

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December 1st we started our \$1 per year lease from The Don Bosco Centers with perhaps the option to purchase at a later time. (More on this very soon). Donations started pouring in and by the time Jordan, Jessie and Nathaniel arrived, in April, the house was full of furniture.

May 1st 2012, the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker, was our dedication mass; 75 people came and together we celebrated the birth of Jerusalem Farm.

Today our story continues to unfold. Many people have been a part of this story;

- Avila University and their President, Dr. Ron Slepitzka, have been with us the whole way as our initial revenue supporters and now our fiscal agent. They have also been a source of many volunteers.
- Don Bosco Centers who opened their doors for us and have provided

us with ground to garden on.

- Jeff and Angela Schiele who have helped in so many ways.
- Our Louisville friends, Dan & Denise Davis, Scott & JoAnn



Haner and others who have visited and helped financially.

- Nazareth Farm, for sending much of the staff to KC to help us on our inaugural event.
- Bethlehem Farm for their support and advice.
- The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who have inspired us and supported us.
- The Diocese of Kansas City and St. Joseph who has been a great advocate for us.

Continued on back page...

Stories of transformation, hope and joy because you support Prayer, Community, Simplicity and Service in Kansas City

“Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called the Children of God.”

By Jordan Schiele

“Am I a peacemaker?” Have you ever asked yourself that question? I had never considered myself a peacemaker and instinctually when I think of peacemakers, I think of social or political activist; people who dedicate their lives fighting for justice in the halls of power or on the street corner organizing protests and days of action. However, this was the question I was faced with when approached by five Avila students wanting to interview me as a peacemaker for their peace studies class. When reflecting on this question, I turned to the greatest example of a peacemaker that I know: Jesus. And right there with the Sermon on the Mount Jesus proclaims:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the Children of God.” He then continues on to give us stories and examples of how to become a peacemaker, and like all great teachers, Jesus shows us through the example of His life. In a time when Roman soldiers would force the Jews to carry their gear for a mile, oppressing them through forced labor, Jesus proclaimed that instead of fighting, they should walk two miles. When women were expected to do all the household chores and serve men, Jesus encouraged Mary to learn and join

his company rather than uphold the traditional expectations. When there were laws, rituals, and prices to be paid for the forgiveness of sins or



for healing, Jesus would freely offer forgiveness and heal the sick. In all of these situations Jesus was putting relationships over laws and customs. He was accepting the brokenness and hurt of each individual, empowering them with unconditional love and forgiveness and challenging them to do the same for others. The reality is that when we follow Christ's example, we are all peacemakers. Being a peacemaker is what it means to be a “child of God” and we



become peacemakers by spreading the Good News through our actions. This is my hope for my life and for Jerusalem Farm.

Here in our neighborhood we are surrounded by many situations that seem hopeless and broken: empty lots, houses falling apart, predatory lending to the poor via payday loans, women being sold as sex slaves on the streets, individuals unable to find shelter in the extreme heat, and refugees in a foreign land where the lan-

guage is hard to learn, the culture is completely different, and the work doesn't pay a living wage. Living in community and being a father, I am confronted daily with my own brokenness. It is only through the unconditional love of God, my family, friends and community members that I am able to continue on each day renewed with hope and forgiveness rather than helplessness and despair. How do you recognize the love and support in your life and spread it to those around you, bringing peace to a broken world? ★

A hearty and happy group of 6 volunteers from St. Mary of Gostyn, a parish in the Chicago area, joined us for our first ever group week. The group arrived on Sunday evening, July 29, ready for a week of historic “firsts.” The first evening began with introductions, orientation and prayer during which the volunteers had the proud privilege of painting the four cornerstones on red bricks. These cornerstones will be an integral part of the chapel here at Jerusalem Farm for years to come. On Monday afternoon we went on our first Awareness Walk – an experiential-learning

A Week of Firsts

activity that takes place as we introduce volunteers to our urban neighborhood and encounter various themes of Catholic Social Teaching. On Tuesday one crew became the first home-crew: staying home to tidy up, prepare the evening meal, and participate in other tasks around the farm. The other crew went to our first home repair site to clean, paint and replace gutters on Barbara's house; the crews switched tasks the next day. All who worked at the home repair site were touched by the life and witness of Barbara, who shared her story during the lunch

break. Volunteers also spent mealtimes attempting to name and design the recipe for Jerusalem Farm's signature lunchtime sandwich (come to Jerusalem Farm for a group week to see what they came up with!). On Tuesday evening Jerusalem Farm hosted our first community night with a meal and evening prayer. On Thursday and Friday the group helped out the Don Bosco Centers (a local non-profit) with their summer youth reading program. The week came to a close with prayer on Saturday morning and as we said our good-byes we

realized how blessed we are to have the opportunity to meet such wonderful people and have them become partners with us in our work here in Kansas City. To *The Reusters* and *Watermelons & Sons* – we miss your unending reserve of joy, love and song. Thank-you for making our first group week so memorable! ★Abhi Dutt

We have been planting seeds

in our community in many ways, including planting them literally in the soil. This summer we have had the opportunity to partner with our neighbors across the street at the Don Bosco Centers in a community garden. The community garden consists of 28 beds and space for some berries. This was the garden's debut summer and in addition to our use of the space some local families are growing there as well as youth in the Don Bosco's summer program. I had the privilege of coordinating the garden activities and programming for 70 1st through 6th graders one afternoon a week.

Together we learned about plant parts, planted cilantro, watered the garden, and visited the Jerusalem Farm chickens. One day the kids interviewed one another to learn about their classmates' family food traditions, like the tamales they eat for holidays, and how their grandmother always makes posole. We also made posters about composting and recycling and the kids even started composting and recycling after their lunch each day! Of course we had to taste veggies fresh off of our plants each week. While the 4th and 5th graders were not so impressed

by the raw swiss chard, the 1st through 3rd graders really liked it. Favorite



vegetables included cucumbers, carrots, green beans, and tomatoes. One boy was so excited after trying a tomato he said, “I'm gonna tell my mom about this!” Our group week was the final week of the program; we played vegetable-themed games and had a water relay

which was a hit on a very hot day. After the youth went back to school our community put in our fall plantings of broccoli, kale, peas, carrots, radishes and lettuce. We are looking forward to expanding the community garden, adding fruit trees, creating more beds, and inviting even more neighbors to participate with us in the garden next summer! ★ Andrea Dutt

