

OUR MISSION



At Mary's House, we strive to live out our Catholic faith and love our neighbor through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. We embrace simple living, self-sustenance, relying on God's providence, and restoring the dignity of every human being. We look to our Blessed Mother as an example of love in action, and draw from the Catholic Worker movement started by Dorothy Day in the 1930's.

We are here to share God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and love, in stark opposition to the values of secular society. We embrace a simple way of life, working with farm animals, growing our own food, and doing life-giving work on the land. We serve the community in the Appalachian region, in Manchester, Kentucky.

OUR VISION

THE HOLY FAMILY

By Patrick and Henny Vallee



One week after we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the “Prince of Peace,” on Christmas day, we shift our attention to Mary, Mother of God, “Queen of Peace,” on the Solemnity of Mary on January 1st. It seems fitting to begin the new year in honor of Mary for her important role in salvation history and contemplate the two natures of the baby in her womb—the divine nature and human nature of Jesus.

As we contemplate the mother and son, we simply can't ignore the other part of this Holy Family, the human father, Joseph. He has certainly made his presence known at Mary's House. His influence and guidance cannot be ignored especially considering the lack of practical skills a graphic designer and an English professor have to offer on a construction site. Patrick is the foreman and Henny is the engineer in this building circus.

One day we finished a quarter of the ceiling in the guesthouse and had to stop and pull insulation off the wall to apply primer before re-insulating it and covering it with plywood, just so we could remove the plywood when we have enough funds to purchase drywall. Another day Henny and Hannah had to learn how to put together a utility sink in the middle of a field and figure out how to fix the toilet that was recently installed. We've been busy

attending the YouTube school of practical skills and learning what we needed as we go. So far, by God's grace, we've managed to not burn the house down, or kill any of our livestock.

We've also somehow managed to bring our children closer to God. In the last six months, they have become accustomed to nightly prayers and have learned the Rosary, the Hail Holy Queen, St. Michael the Archangel, and





have begun a nightly study of the lives of the saints. But most importantly, they've developed a faith of their own; a faith capable of understanding the deep theological roots of the Catholic Worker movement (the next addition to our homeschool curriculum).

While the humanity in the Holy Family is a daily part of our farm life and it's impossible not to see its impact on our lives, the divine aspect often escapes us until we reconnect with the family that God has placed in front of us, and it's in their expression of divinity that we find the strength to continue with our ministry. Moreover, it is their generous financial contribution that have kept us

afloat during our brief encounter with true poverty.

However, the divine nature of God is best seen in relationships, and its in our extreme need that we can see the hand of God working in our lives and on our land.

During this time of reflection, we would like to thank our family who've been there for us as we embark on this pilgrimage. Our family has been our spiritual and emotional support for this entire journey, has helped purchase the 60-acre Catholic Worker farm, and provided many of the kitchenwares necessary for our future community kitchen. Our family has helped purchase the guesthouse, chickens, and building supplies. Our local

church family at St. William and St. Ann welcomed us into their community, given us our first pair of pigs, offered us hot showers, laundry services, and appliances, and have prayed for us continuously since we moved to the farm. We are blessed to have been adopted by so many families, just as St. Joseph was adopted by the Holy Family. We've experienced the divinity of Christ through the humanity of the Holy Family and through the holiness of family. Our understanding of the word "family" is growing and expanding to more of what God intended and we look forward to our new family members. We will continue to pray for all of our family, for your needs, for your health, and for your faith journey.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Your support has allowed our little family to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Christ. Please consider contributing to our current community needs.



Scan the code to donate, or to send by check, please make it payable to **Henny Vallee** and mail to **P.O. Box 51, Goose Rock, KY 40944.**

- Long/short-term community members and volunteers
- Community kitchen
- Hospice house of hospitality
- Retreat/guest cabin
- Chickens, goats and cows
- Tractor
- St. Joseph & Our Lady of Lourdes outdoor statues
- Catholic outdoor decor and signage
- Lawnmower
- Lowe's and/or Home Depot gift cards



THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

MEET OUR FAMILY



PATRICK VALLEE

Visionary behind Mary's House, Husband and Father of 5, and Student of St. Joseph. Previous community member at the Orange County Catholic Worker, returning to the Catholic Worker movement after a brief career as an English Professor at Pikes Peak State College in Colorado.

HENNY VALLEE

Wife and Mother of 5, maintains Mary's House farm, family, finances, education and community outreach. Previously involved in Search for Christ retreats and bible study for young adults in Santa Ana, CA, and community service organizations.

HANNAH, 15

Oldest child, trusted caretaker of the pigs and siblings, and creative creator of Mary's House crochet goods.

GABE, 14

Oldest son and the muscle on the farm; assists with the construction of the multiple buildings in progress, as well as tends the several acres of land for farming.

CALEB, 11

Middle child, tends to farm dog and chickens, fills the gap in any necessary duties.

SARA, 9

Middle daughter, passionate caretaker of all animals on the farm and adopter of strays, just as compassionate and loving with her 2-legged friends.



FAITH, 3

Youngest child, joy of the family, lover of Mary and St. Francis, our reminder to appreciate the little things and simple beauty of the land, our little St. Therése.

Chicken sketches by Sara V.

PRAY WITH US

- The sick among our family and friends, and for our ability to serve the least among us through caring for the infirmed and imprisoned
- Our beloved departed
- Dwight & Leia Smith (OCCW)
- Our local parishes and parishioners from St. Ann and St. William
- Search for Christ family
- Our kids and their homeschool & faith journey
- Our mental and physical health



LET US PRAY FOR YOU

One of the blessings of the homesteading lifestyle we've adopted is that it allows for plenty of prayer time. We all know that Jesus hears the prayers of the young first. Let us and our children pray for you and yours. Send us your prayer request and we will pray for you during our nightly prayers.

Email us at mammahenn@gmail.com.

"NO ONE HAS A RIGHT TO SIT DOWN AND FEEL HOPELESS. THERE IS TOO MUCH WORK TO DO."

DOROTHY DAY



Mary's House in Manchester
www.maryshouseinmanchester.com



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