



Transfiguration parishioner Clyde Cutter stands with farm equipment.

Transfiguration men received more than they gave in Appalachia

PITTSFORD — Twenty men from Church of the Transfiguration recently returned from working with the rural poor through the Catholic Center in eastern Kentucky.

Ranging in ages from 27 to 67, the men spent one week sharing the impoverished lives of the region's residents. Working with a local Catholic priest and sister who acted as liaisons with the local people, the group made repairs to one family's bathroom floor and rewired the house of two nuns. The workers also repaired several walls in the nuns' residence.

Frank Champion, one of the 20 men who took the trip, wrote of several other tasks the group completed. Through these tasks, the men came in contact with experiences far removed from their own. Champion said he was particularly impressed with a woman who needed her porch repaired.

"Then there was Ethel," Champion wrote in his essay "Appalachian Gift." "Her house was neat and attractively decorated within her meager means. For many years Ethel had taken care of a completely invalid sister, now deceased. Her severely retarded younger brother (Lonnie), now aged 45, had been confined to bed all his life. Ethel has always taken care of him. Her husband is now bedridden with a deteriorated hip in the same room as Lonnie.

"Ethel is a petite lady in her early 60s," Champion continued. "She radiates a spirit of quiet joy in life, of acceptance from

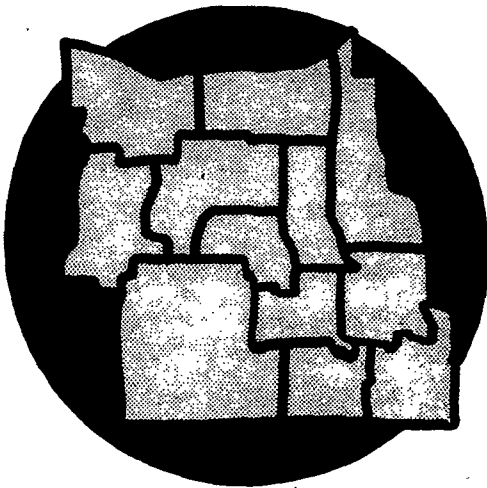
God's hands of the tasks that have fallen to her, and is ready to give at every turn."

Champion added that Ethel was scarred from beatings she took from her father as a young woman. Her father didn't understand Lonnie's condition. Rather than let her father take his anger out on Lonnie, Ethel asked that she be beaten instead.

Champion summed up the group's experience in these words: "We had come to Appalachia to give something, but Ethel and her neighbors gave us by far the greater gift."



Among the 20 Church of the Transfiguration parishioners who recently worked with the rural poor in eastern Kentucky were (from left): Greg Ballentine, Neil Tornes and Bob Flynn. An unidentified Kentucky resident (center) assists with the work.



Perinton church hosting New Year's Eve party

PERINTON — St. John of Rochester Parish is hosting a New Year's Eve party entitled "Winter Wonderland" at the parish center, 18 Wickford Way.

Tickets cost \$25, which includes appetizers and a prime rib buffet. The Wine Lite Band will provide musical entertainment beginning at 9:30 p.m. A continental breakfast will be provided at the end of the evening.

For tickets, call Jane and Ken Konecny, 716/377-2110, or Betty and Roger Deveney, 385-1164.

Lessons and carols set to feature choir school

PITTSFORD — The Cathedral Choir School, an ecumenical vocal ensemble, will be the featured performers in a program of Advent Lessons and Carols at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at St. Louis Church, 60 S. Main St.

Funded by Arts for Greater Rochester, the Cathedral Choir School has performed in churches throughout the area and is a member of the Royal School of Church Music, an international organization dedicated to high standards in liturgical music. Ages for members of the choir generally range from 8 to 15.

The choir will perform such works as "Sheep May Safely Graze" by Bach; "This is the Truth" by R. Vaughn Williams; "The Angel Gabriel Came from Heaven," by Anthony Power; and the "Carol of the Children" by John Rutter.

In addition to the parish choir, various instrumental soloists will also join the school.

The program is free and open to the public. The church is accessible to the handicapped. For information, call 716/586-5675.



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