

*Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church  
75 Ridgedale Avenue  
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927*

*Operation Appalachia*

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Joseph Harris  
Operation Appalachia Director

Rev. Jude Salus, OSB  
Pastor – Notre Dame Church

The Operation Appalachia Ministry at Notre Dame is a dedicated group of skilled and unskilled adults and youth who spend one week of their own time each summer repairing homes in Preston County, West Virginia. Projects include patching leaky roofs, replacing broken windows, painting, plumbing, flooring, and many other home repairs. This summer we will make our eleventh trip to Preston County. In return, the team brings home a great sense of satisfaction in helping to improve the living conditions of the county's poor and elderly, as well as learning some valuable lessons from those we have helped.

Last year, part of our team worked to improve the Moats family trailer. The project included repairing and tarring the roof, constructing a porch and fixing the septic system. These repairs improved the sanitary conditions for the family as well as adding to the quality of life for the Moats. For many families in Preston County, the front porch is the main gathering space for family and friends. The Moats were thrilled with the new porch and looked forward to "having a set" on it each day.

For Beth, words cannot express her gratitude to Operation Appalachia for providing a new mobile home for her and her family. Three years ago, Beth's children were taken away because of the poor condition of her house. We purchased a mobile home for \$3,000, set it up on the site and went to work. Over the course of the week, the team dug a seventy-foot trench to connect the plumbing and electric from the old house to the new mobile home, rehabilitated the interior of the new home, and built a front porch. With her new home finished, Beth was soon reunited with her children.

Each year the adults and youth of Operation Appalachia raise funds for the trip primarily through three fund raisers – a Craft Fair in the Fall, the sale of Alternative Christmas Cards, and a Tricky Tray in the Spring. In addition we rely upon contributions from members of the Parish, corporations, and other private donors. If you would like to make a contribution to this worthwhile ministry, you may send it to the attention of Joseph Harris at the address above. Checks should be made payable to Operation Appalachia.

We are grateful for your participation and please know that you are always in our prayers. If you have any questions, feel free to call Ann Bono at 973-285-0335.