the SERVANT SONG

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AGAPE 650 GREENWICH ROAD WARE, MA 01082

From Dream to Reality: Agape Community Opens

"As Christ's message was not popular, neither is the message of this community. It is a prophetic message and all prophets are the signs of God and of suffering. So it is not suffering just for suffering's sake. It's suffering for the sake of the Lord. ...as we preach Christ Crucified. ...who has promised that His Resurrection will one day be ours."
(Bishop Timothy Harrington)

Bishop Harrington

With these words, Bishop Timothy Harrington (Worcester County, Ma.), began the official commemoration of Agape's opening celebration on October 1, 1989 at 1 pm. Escorted by Fr Chet Misiewicz of St. Aloysius Church (Agape's local parish which generously supplied tables, chairs, hospitality and ongoing assistance), Bishop Harrington greeted and blessed over 400 well-wishers who had gathered on 32 acres of land contingent to the Quabbin Reservoir Reservation in Hardwick, Ma., a small town on the outskirts of Worcester County.

Two years of building, begging, borrowing and keeping an exhausting work pace, driving forbearing friends into a frenzy with endless needs and ever-changing deadlines, were, at least in an "almost 80% done" sense — over. We had moved into an unfinished structure at the peak of a ferocious winter storm, marking yet another milestone in the seven year Agape odyssey. We are here! Here in Hardwick. We made it, and in that deep communal sense, so too did all of those who traveled the journey with us. The fireplace needs constructing, the floors still need to be laid, on and on, but, gloriously, miraculously, we're here!

Sarah Pirtle

It is 10 am, October 1, 1989. Six months of intensive planning, meetings, phone calls, visits, mailings, ordering, scheming, praying and fund-raising, and now, finally, the planning committee gathers in a circle to give thanks for the day. By 11 am, early arrivals are being welcomed by greeters at the end of Agape's winding,400 ft. driveway, leading up to the impressively angled, barn-like structure, designed so giftedly by Robert Wegener. The massive roof which rises majestically into view as one walks up the driveway is a promise of things to come. After the stonework laid by Brayton around the base of the house, giving the impression of solidity, rootedness to the earth, that promise lies behind the entry to the building in that graceful cathedral ceiling peaked by two sky-lights through which the moon casts its ivory radiance—and the sun its natural heat.

Cars line both sides of Greenwich Rd. for at least a mile. The pristine stillness of the Agape property is interrupted today by the deliberate footfalls and excited conversations of guests. Anointed with "the oil of gladness" (Is. 61:1-3) by Fr. John Surette of the Jesuit Center in Boston and others, including