



My Perspective

FSPA helps cultivate, propagate White Rose

Off the grid. So far off the grid, in fact, that you won't find them on the Internet. So far off the grid, in fact, that their 34-page newsletter is painstakingly produced by typewriter and photocopier, lovingly illustrated by hand.

So far off the grid are John and Regina Bambrick-Rust, founders of White Rose Catholic Worker Farm in rural La Plata, Missouri. Yet their ministry is hardwired: to education, offering land-based skill formation in growing food, natural building and holistic healing; and to hospitality, inviting those in need of shelter to their home.

Julia Walsh, FSPA, is a teacher, a social justice advocate, a blogger, a columnist and a poet who wears many other hats, under which she shouts joyfully her good news of Gospel living. She ministered in Chicago, Illinois, for four years, where she discovered the buds of White Rose blossoming in the city and came to cherish organic, mutual sustenance of right relationships with John and Regina. As they transplanted their ministry in south suburban Chicago, she sustained her support. When they transferred their White Rose blooms to La Plata, she bade them best wishes, blessings, abundance.

And helping to nurture the nourishment they provide for all of creation, Sister Julia sponsors an FSPA ministry grant. She offers us answers to questions that can keep White Rose, indefinitely, on the Franciscan guided life-sustaining grid.

Perspectives:

What stimulated your senses to White Rose Catholic Worker?

Sister Julia:

A close friend connected me to John and the original founders. Even though I lived in a different neighborhood I hungered to participate in their communal living and support their work and life together. I became friends with him and Regina when they discerned and moved to farmland in south suburban Chicago (before moving to Missouri).

I am a supporter because they are extremely inspiring to me. They live more radically than anyone I know.

Perspectives:

White Rose is crafting and cultivating many modes of sustainability and hospitality that include constructing a natural-built house for

volunteers and guests, moderating use of petroleum and electricity, living largely without automobiles and starting a meal co-op and a tools/equipment share. How do you see these efforts impacting their immediate neighbors? Care of creation on a larger scale?

Sister Julia:

I love the simple things they do to build community and relationships with their human and natural neighbors. The community potlucks and the hosting of visitors is a way for them to share their mission and heighten awareness among others, as well as gain support for their work. I suspect that what they are doing will have ripple effects as others are inspired to live more closely connected to creation.

Perspectives:

The program is said to have generated collaboration and relationships: basic needs deeply delved and developed in John and Regina's ministry. What do you see as gift—to FSPA, in the vein of Francis and Clare—from White Rose?

Sister Julia:

Just as Francis and Clare both found alternative ways to live in response to the signs of their times and their witness inspired others to commit to a radical Gospel lifestyle, John and Regina are also offering an alternative form of Gospel life in response to the signs of environmental degradation in this time in history. They are also rooted in the Gospel and in service to their local and global communities. We are blessed and enriched by their bold commitment. We can be honored by our connection to them as we partner together in building up the reign of God! ■



White Rose honors "All God's Creatures." As part of a co-op with two neighboring farms they've recently welcomed two Percheron draft horses: value increasing (for their reproduction), non-petroleum providers of mowing and tilling and dragging firewood that also, says John, "connect us to creation."