

Agape

Advent Christmas 2025

Dear Friends,

Advent is near as we greet you, our dedicated supporters, with our annual review of Agape's ministry, embracing you in a spirit of solidarity during these dark days. We search for words and emotions to express the carnage in Gaza, ICE raids, extrajudicial killings of so called "drug smugglers", the threat of nuclear war, the madness, cruelty and mayhem brought on by Trump and Maga world. Still, we harness our revulsion, helplessness, and despair through vigils, protests, fasting and supporting trips to Palestine and the arrests of Agape's extended community of peacemakers.

June Workday



June Agape Workday Volunteers

harvesting arugula, Asian greens, turnips, kale, black and daikon radishes.

40 dedicated volunteers arrived for our annual June workday and exceeded the usual goals of putting up 2-3 cords of wood, cut, split and stacked. Winter: Bring Her on! Doris and Dave Koziol come each year; Doris manages the garden crew with Sirius Community co-founder and master gardener, Linda Reimer. Dave supervises wood detail with the assistance of the extended McCarthy Family clan. Now, into November, we are still

Protest at Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston

Various faith groups, primarily Catholics from Pax Christi, Agape, Catholic Worker and women religious, gathered at Boston Cathedral of the Holy Cross on the Feast of the Holy Family. We entreated Archbishop Richard Henning to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. Some of us spoke to him in the reception line, but he refused to plea publicly for a ceasefire, not wanting to alienate the Jewish community in Boston.



Vigil at Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston

Gathering and Grappling: A Call to Community

At St. Francis Day on October 4th, we attempted to locate the grief, and despair of our collective lives. We created a space for silence, listening, prayer, and song, in “A Call to Resistance.” Two hundred searching souls journeyed to Hardwick’s Nipmuc woods to explore faith-based nonviolence and noncooperation. Together, we found courage to confront the national choke hold of a demagogue.



Francis Day Small Group Discussion

Students and teachers from Iona, Holy Cross, Tufts, Boston College, Brandeis, Yale, and Fordham, some of whom comprise Agape’s Rising Generation leaders, hosted listening circles to determine what collective and individual action might evolve from centeredness in prayer, while owning our fear and outrage. In the words of poet Denise Levertov, we created an “energy field more intense than war,” around a bonfire. We raised our anguished voices with conviction in profound moments of communion.

Community Sustenance



Andre leaving Agape

A month later, volunteers including Amy Shaw from the NY Catholic Worker and Andre Wiederkehr, a member of the Mennonite Church from Ontario, Canada arrived. Andre pedaled up our driveway on his bicycle, after cycling over 2,000 miles throughout the northeast US. Amy and Andre were joined by two friends from Ware, MA, Donovan and Chris, who dug out the compost toilet chamber to fertilize Agape’s

fruit trees with humanure. Linda Jenkins, arrested for protesting nuclear weapons in Groton, CT spent three days of court assigned volunteering at Agape. Scott Oglesby spent three days a week for several months, responding to many needs.

Interns Jasmine Sun and Grace Demopoulos of Rhode Island School of Design gardened and stacked wood during summer. They both celebrated St. Francis Day with us and with great enthusiasm.



Row 1, Sun, Grace, Donovan
Back Row, Brayton and Chris

Once-a-Year Plea...We Need Your Help!

In our last Advent '24 fundraiser, we conveyed our pleas for \$25,000 to cover unexpected repairs for flood damage in Brigid House. Your year in and year out generosity always meets our needs and more. How do we express our gratitude to you for this outpouring of faith in Agape's mission for these 43 years, except to express it? We could not continue without you.

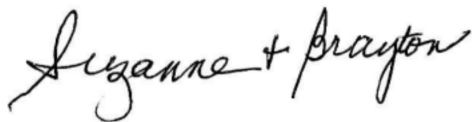
Current Agape Expenses

4 new windows in Francis House:	\$2,000
2 new sky lights in Brigid House:	\$1,000
An ongoing Agape commitment: employing the indigent poor in the town of Ware, our desperate friends on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.	
Cost for two laborers:	\$6,000
General Overhead for operating expenses in both houses:	\$5,000
Payment of current office assistant:	\$9,000
Total	\$22,000

Advent Season Is Upon Us

We, people of faith, "wait" in anguish; Yet we stay the course. As perpetual war, famine and genocide grind on, we trust in the promise of deliverance: The Prince of Peace will come. May we persevere together as the Beloved Community in unwavering faith and in keeping the light of nonviolent community lit by our affirming flame.

In Advent Joy,



Suzanne and Brayton

"Jesus says very clearly at the end of the world, we're going to be asked, you know, how did you receive the foreigner? Did you receive him and welcome him or not? And I think that there's a deep reflection that needs to be made in terms of what's happening." Pope Leo XIV, Nov. 5, 2025

