



## College Meeting 3: Foundation

### 1. OPENING PRAYER

### 2. HISTORY OF BETHLEHEM FARM'S LAND

- a. *Community is about sharing work and finding support in one another, as Dorothy Day says, we are not alone anymore. We don't have to do it by ourselves. Our foundation includes tradition, or the life of communities handed down over time. It is the preservation and passing on of what is essential and enduring, as that which is superficial falls to the wayside over time. It is also recognition and respect for those who have gone before us, for those whose shoulders we stand on, and whose work is our foundation, and for those who made and continually remake who we are today. Bethlehem Farm stands in the tradition of the Catholic Worker Movement through being situated on a former Worker Farm.*
- b. On the property of Bethlehem Farm, the Catholic Worker Movement was carried on in the work of Michael Kirwan who created the "John Fillager and Tyra Dunn Catholic Worker Farm." The purpose of "the Farm" at that time was to offer a chance to DC Worker residents to start over and try the rural life. That property is where Bethlehem Farm stands today. Michael passed away from cancer in 1999 and his family slowly transitioned the residents to other locations. Eventually the Farm was gifted to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston WV for the mission of Bethlehem Farm. Michael Kirwan serves for the Bethlehem Farm Caretakers as an example of a simple yet radical and powerful Christian life.
- c. *Two Articles about Michael Kirwan:*
  - i. [I Remember Michael](#) from America Magazine and [He Daily Served a Disguised God](#) from National Catholic Reporter

