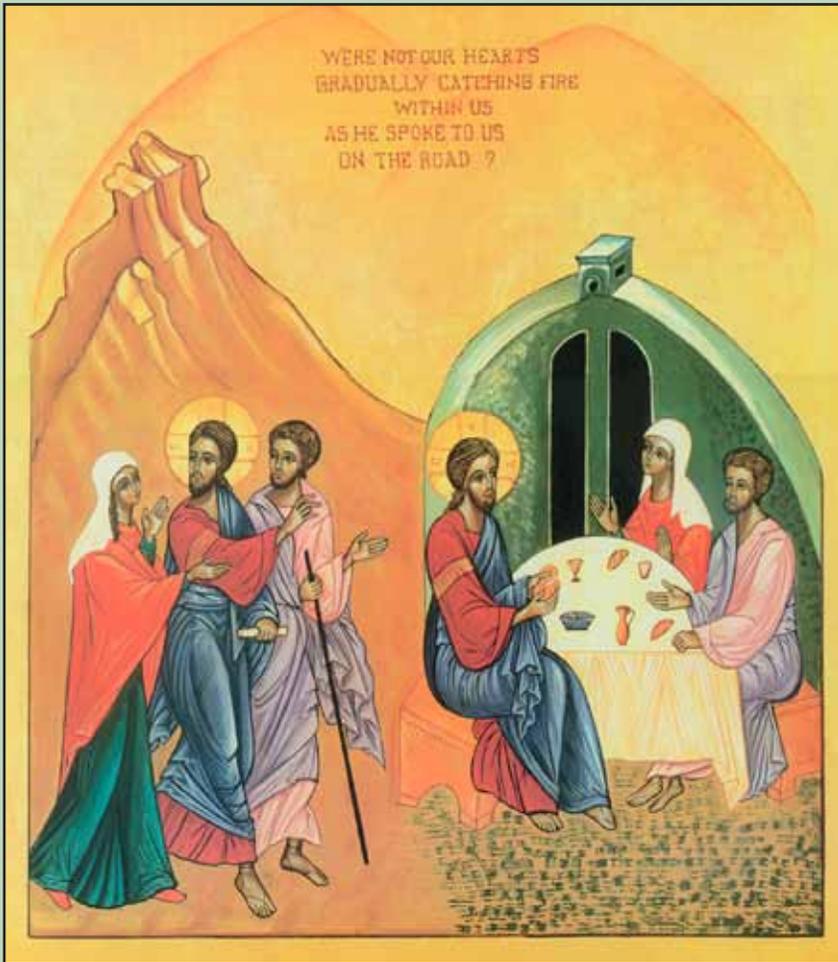




Welcome to the NEW Companion

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Emmaus Ministries • 345 East Ninth Street • Erie, PA 16503-1107 • (814)459-8349



Luke 24:32

Dear Friends of Emmaus,

Leave it to Robin Williams to make this observation, “Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’”

This new format is Emmaus’ way of joining in Spring’s party, of celebrating the creative and fresh.

As most of you know, Emmaus recently initiated a website,

www.emmauserie.org

We did this so we can tell you, in a more timely fashion, what is happening at the Soup Kitchen, Kids Cafe, and Food Pantry. We try to add news as it occurs as well as offer inspirational features. We call the web feature “in the breaking of the bread” because this is the Emmaus story.

As our beautiful icon on the front cover explains—following Jesus’ resurrection, he joined two disciples on the road to Emmaus who recognized him “in the breaking of the bread.”

It is our hope that you visit the website on a regular basis. There you can find out all the good things the people of Erie are doing—what you are doing—to recognize Jesus in all our brothers and sisters who are hungry and homeless.

Because the website is handling most of the daily news, we decided that the newsletter we send you three times a year should have a different bent. Here it is. Welcome to spring’s party.



Sister Mary

P.S. If you would like to be alerted to our upcoming events and special needs, please fill out the data on the enclosed form or send your e-mail address to mkloecker@emmauserie.org.

FOCUS FEATURE

MERCYHURST COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Have you ever walked the streets as a homeless person looking for a place to sleep? Looking for a meal? Have you ever shopped for groceries and then carried two bags for a mile because that's how far you live from the store and you have no car?



Greg Baker

Twenty students from Mercyhurst College can answer “yes” to those questions. Under the leadership of Greg Baker, Director of Campus Ministry at Mercyhurst College, the students

spent the weekend of March 25-26, in a Lenten Immersion Experience in hunger and homelessness.

“When we advertise the Lenten experience, we have a waiting list within a couple of days,” Baker explained. “Most of our students have grown up with too much comfort and are too sheltered from

the realities of poverty and various injustices. They hunger for real experiences and real people with real stories.”

On Friday the students served at the Kids Cafe, cleaned the building, prepared a dinner for their guest speaker, Jerry, a once homeless man, walked the streets of downtown Erie with him, reflected and prayed together, and spent the night at the Kids Cafe. On Saturday they prepared breakfast, prayed, and visited places that served the poor of Erie: Upper Room, Catholic Charities, Multicultural Community Resource Center and the Emmaus Soup Kitchen where they served a meal, ate together and ended the experience.

“We are so grateful for Emmaus Ministries and their partnership with us to offer students the powerful experiences in the Erie community,” said Baker.



Student Responses

“Walking around with Jerry in the cold and seeing where he had spent nights outside when he was homeless was most meaningful for me. It made everything I have ever heard about homelessness very real. His story was right in front of us, so how could we not feel emotional.” -Sarah

“It taught me that people who are on the street aren't just people who live on the streets. They actually try to partake in a job, but a minimum wage job isn't enough to sustain a livable life.” -Theresa

“The experience showed me that service may not just be physical labor, but can be as simple as sitting down with a child and talking.” -Madeline

“I am used to praying for the homeless during the petitions in mass, but the whole situation was so abstract to me: I've always had a roof over my head and a family on whom I could rely... but after speaking with people who have no one to help them, I realize what a horrible thing being homeless is. It's not only a physical struggle, but also an emotional struggle.” -Victoria

“The most meaningful experience for me was when I heard a young boy at the Kids Cafe come up to Mrs. V, I think she was in charge, and say, ‘Can I please stay here longer? I don't want to go home yet!’ That was really touching. It made me realize how much of a difference just a few hours each day is for these children.” -Rebecca

FOR the RECORD

Holy Thursday Celebration



Two-hundred guests enjoyed a full course baked ham dinner with all the trimmings at the annual Holy Thursday meal at Emmaus Soup Kitchen. Retreat participants from Mount Saint Benedict Monastery helped serve the meal that included beautiful centerpieces from Cathy Dudenhoeffer, oodles of candy treats from Pulakos and Millcreek Kiwanis, fresh rolls from Arnone's Bakery and a large Easter cake from Renie Louis and women from St. Jude's church.

Contemporary Stations

Emmaus Soup Kitchen was one of the stops for the 31st annual Good Friday Contemporary Stations of the Cross, an 8-mile pilgrimage from the downtown Erie Cathedral to Mount Saint Benedict Monastery with prayerful "stations" along the way. Here is a reading from the soup kitchen station:

I am Lisa. Things are a lot different since Daddy left. We used to keep a big bowl of fruit on the counter, and we could have some anytime we wanted. Now Mom hardly ever buys fruit. It costs too much, she says. Mom got a new job now. But she doesn't make as much as Daddy did; so we have to move from our apartment. I don't know where we'll go when we move. It makes Mom feel bad to say "no" all the time. So I try not to ask for much.

Over 100 people participated in the stations that were organized by Benedictines for Peace.



FOR the RECORD

Let us give thanks to...

- **Law Firm of Marnen, Mioduszewski, Bordonaro, Wagner and Sinnott, LLC**, who played for Emmaus in a mini-basketball tournament fundraiser, Hoops for Hunger Corporate Challenge, at Tullio Convention Center in March....
 - Twenty-seven **employees from the Office of Clerk of Records** at the Erie County Courthouse who raised \$675 for Emmaus at a "Jeans Day"....
- **Brownie Troop #30990**, 2nd grade students at Blessed Sacrament School who donated 13 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the soup kitchen....
 - **Parishoners of Mount Calvary** in Erie who held a toiletry collection for Emmaus in Lent and collected enough items to fill a car trunk....
- Walkers who participated in the **Erie County 2010 C.R.O.P. Walk** for the \$1500 Emmaus received from that event....
 - **Students at Villa Maria Academy** who cooked and delivered a meal for 150 guests at the soup kitchen and **students from Cathedral Prep** who did a spring-cleaning at the Kids Cafe during the school's Service Day in April....
- **George and Carol Devenney**, owners of Eden Run Farms, North East, PA, who donated 500 pounds of beef to Emmaus Soup Kitchen.

WHAT CAN I SAY ABOUT..

the Kids Cafe? These children have an opportunity to be together, have assistance with conflict resolution in an environment that really honors them for who they are. I think the most moving thing for me was watching some of the young



adults who attended the program when they were kids come back to sit with Ann (Ann Vinca, Kids Cafe coordinator) and talk to her about their lives. It shows how much the Kids Cafe impacted their lives. —Darcy Johnson, a chaplain candidate from Massachusetts, spent a three-week internship with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, sharing in all ministries

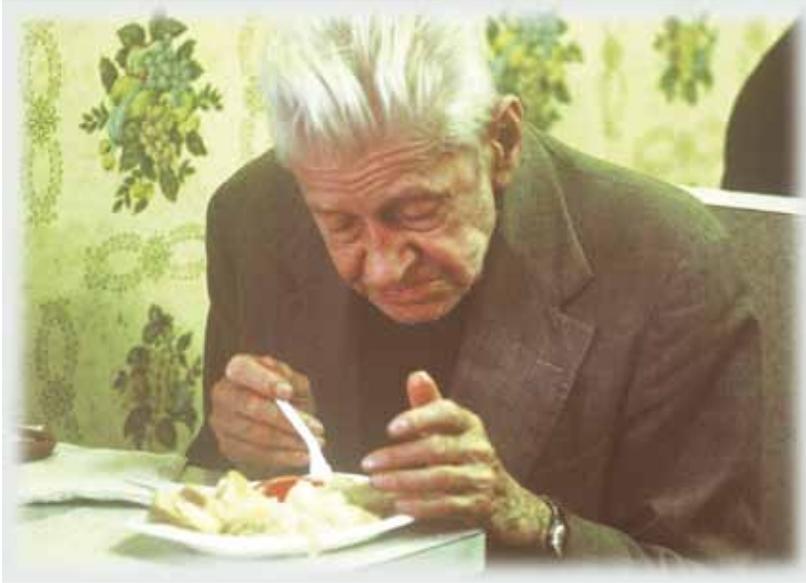
IN MEMORY

We are grateful to family members who asked that memorials be made to Emmaus in the names of their deceased loved ones.

Emmaus volunteers:
William J. Miller
Charles W. "Chuck" Schaaf

Ann Dale Brew
Ewald Joseph Brugger
Jeanne M. Brunner
Garrett W. "Gary" Conover
Geraldine Hilbrich
Mary Ann Hohman
Therese Ann Kopkowski
Christopher Raymond Longnecker
LaVerne M. Hagmann Tyler
Viola Gross Wilhelm

LETTER of the WEEK



“Please accept this check in hopes that the man who approached me as I left work after hours, by myself, really was hungry and hopefully came to you to eat since I didn’t give him money. I hate that I was too apprehensive being alone and I did not help him out or want to take my wallet out. Especially during Holy Week. He said he meant me no harm and was just hungry, and I just can’t get that out of my head. So I hope he ends up seeking a meal at your soup kitchen.

Happy Easter. –A.B.



Somewhere in your life...

*Somewhere in your life
hope you might see
one starved person,
the look on his face
when the bread finally arrives.*

*Hope you might have
baked it,
or bought it,
or even needed it yourself.*

Helen David Brancato, IHM



*For that look on his face,
For your hands meeting his
across a piece of bread,
You might be willing
to lose a lot,
or suffer a lot,
or die a little even.*

Daniel Berrigan

FACE to FACE: EMMAUS VOLUNTEERS

WHAT NEWS EVENT HAS IMPACTED YOUR LIFE MOST DEEPLY? *We asked this of Emmaus volunteers.*

Nora Horihan, volunteer Emmaus Food Pantry, 20+ years

News event: Sandanista Revolution in late 1970s



During 1977 and 1978 I lived in Costa Rica for 15 months during the most intense time of the Sandanista Revolution in Nicaragua. Many people came over the border as refugees from the fighting. I read American newspapers and got some information about the revolution. And I heard stories from the refugees about what was really going on. It opened my eyes that what we hear up here, might not be the whole story. I think young

people should spend time in a foreign country so they would have the same experience. It changed my life.



Norann Brugger, Kids Cafe volunteer, 11 years

News event: Bay of Pigs, 1960s

I was 25 years old in 1962 and living in Baltimore, was a new bride and had a new baby. My husband was working on a special project and went to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. every day. I felt very vulnerable during those tense days of the John F. Kennedy administration during the Bay of Pigs. We were living close to the center of American government and worried about what would happen if we were attacked. We thought about how you should live your life because tomorrow was an unknown. We had a shelter with food in the basement of the apartment. It was in a storage room and was shared by all four apartments. It was a scary time.



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COVER ARTWORK

Icon *Road to Emmaus*
Iconographer: Sister Marie-Paul, OSB, Jerusalem
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Image provided by The Printery House of Conception Abbey

Kindness shown to the poor is an act of worship.

Proverbs 14:31