

FROM SISTER MARY:

Dear Friends of Emmaus,

Classical music filled my home when I was growing up. And I remember sitting with my mother listening to the Metropolitan Opera on the radio every Saturday afternoon. My artist dad I've written about before, he created flower gardens, especially the rose section, with the mastery of Monet.



My late sister, Anne, was an artist. She died too young but she left behind dozens of paintings that are an everlasting legacy. I used to love to visit her at her home and studio in upstate New York. She called her studio "Common Ground" and artists of every ilk gathered there for music jams and performances, poetry readings and art shows.

In my own life I was a potter and I still experiment with photography to feed my artistic side. But mostly I just try to surround myself with the beautiful. I know that immersing myself in the beauty of art, music, words, conversations, nature, environment and people is my lifeblood. "In the end beauty will save the world," Dostoyevsky wrote. That sentence is part of my personal creed. Beauty is also my definition of the Divine.

So when I heard that artist Brother Mickey McGrath was invited to Erie by my Benedictine community to lead a workshop, I was eager to take advantage of his visit and have him paint the beauty that is Emmaus Soup Kitchen. I hope seeing the scenes of Emmaus through the eyes of Brother Mickey moves your heart. I hope that through his art you get a glimpse of beauty in unexpected places.

Sister Mary

An Interview with Brother Mickey: Beauty Out of Brokenness

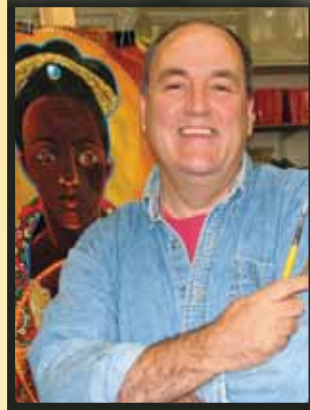
BROTHER MICKEY O'NEILL MCGRATH, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales, is an award-winning artist, writer and speaker who loves to explore the relationship between art and faith. He was interviewed by Sister Mary Lou Kownacki. <http://bromickeymcgrath.com>

I loved your painting of dinner at Emmaus. (See cover.) Can you say a few words about it?

Emmaus Soup Kitchen exists to feed the poor of Erie, who appear no different from the hungry poor of Camden, N.J. where I live, or God's hungry children anywhere in the world. I couldn't help but be reminded of Dorothy Day when I visited the soup kitchen, so I have her mingling with the crowd. That's St. Benedict waiting in line outside the window.



Why did you move to inner-city Camden, NJ, one of the poorest and most violent cities in the country? I felt a call when Father Doyle, the pastor of Sacred Heart Church there,



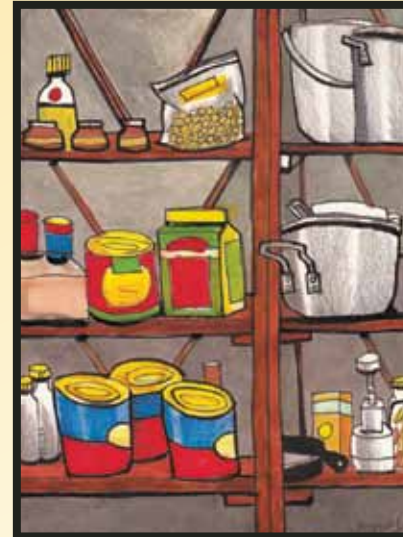
invited me to come. He's done wonderful things in the parish such as rebuilding homes, starting a live theatre, organizing community gardens and opening a poet's garden. He wanted me to come and just be a presence there. His invitation fed a new interest in me about how important and necessary beauty is in such a dark place. I am finding beauty in most unexpected places, places that the world has given up on. Right out of brokenness beauty is born.

"Nothing you write will matter unless it moves the human heart," said the poet A.D. Hope. Does the same hold true with art?

Paintings aren't finished until someone interacts with it. How powerful a media medium it is. Art brings people a sense of contemplative hope. People say to me, "You bring me hope through your art." "I stay in the church because of you."

You use a lot of saints in your art work. Why?

It's my niche. Saints were such an important part of my Catholic childhood. I loved all those great stories. I want people to see the saints that I draw and paint as very human people, people just like us. By painting the saints I try to show continuity in time. If we look at this very healthy tradition of celebrating saints with fresh eyes, we might find that the saints have something to say to us today. They are our soul friends.



Your favorite saint is...?

Saint Francis de Sales because he always preached gentleness, humility and patience with yourself. He was so understanding of human nature and how



important it is to love yourself no matter what failures and weaknesses you have. And he loved beauty. One of my favorite quotes of his is, "When you're in the presence of beauty, you're in the presence of God."

You do art workshops around the country. What three things do you hope participants take with them from these workshops?

Joy, new ways to pray and an awareness of the presence of God within.

You have done a series of paintings of Emmaus. Why? Do they change anything? My art will help all those who see it. I want to raise awareness and change people's hearts through beauty.

What's one thing you know for sure? That God is alive and well.

FACE TO FACE: We asked Emmaus volunteers, guests and staff:

What Moves Your Heart?

A thing of beauty that moves my heart is . . .

The moon lifts my heart, especially a full moon. I like to sit in our chapel at night and see the light fill the room. I just sit and gaze at the beauty and it brings me closer to God.

—**Sister Claire Marie Surmik,**
Emmaus Food Pantry co-coordinator



Sr. Claire Marie

The movie, Heaven is for Real, is beautiful, especially the scene where the father said that everybody has something broken in themselves, that there is a part in each of us that needs to be mended. That really touched me and moved my heart.

—**Trinity, Kids Cafe, age 14**



Trinity

When I see a mom and her baby laughing together, that moves my heart. There is a newness about them, a closeness that is beyond what can be described. They are the fullness of love.

—**Ruth McConnell,**
Emmaus Grove and Soup Kitchen volunteer



Ruth

When I see a child walk into the food pantry and I can call them by name, it tugs at my heart. I smile at them and it's a smile that goes through my entire body.

—**Debbie Shoup, Food Pantry volunteer**



Debbie

A special birthday gift I received from my Mom this year moved my heart. She gave me the gift of a Novena. For nine days she offered prayers for me. Her faith inspires me. It is a gift I have tucked deep inside my heart.

—**Rita Scrimenti,**
Emmaus Ministries/Communications Assistant



Rita

FOOD FOR THE SOUL...

May it be beautiful before me.

May it be beautiful behind me.

May it be beautiful below me.

May it be beautiful above me.

May it be beautiful all around me.

It is finished in beauty.

It is finished in beauty.

It is finished in beauty.

Navajo Chant



FOR the RECORD

Happy Birthday to... How do you celebrate your birthday? **Martha Hilbert, Emmaus board member and long-time soup kitchen volunteer,** celebrates it with 200 ice cream sundaes. “For a birthday present, my son John’s family gives me an annual Ice Cream Sundae Day at the soup kitchen,” explained Martha. Martha and family scooped 18 gallons of Connie’s ice cream (Martha’s favorite) into dishes compete with all the toppings, including a new one suggested by granddaughter Olivia—Oreo cookie pieces.



Hilbert family, from left: Tim, Martha, Martha’s sister, Sue DiCara, Johnny, Olivia and Nancy



Gretchen Mikelonis, Kids Cafe volunteer, and child

for a pizza lunch and an afternoon in the water park. The annual outing is sponsored by **Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity parishioners, Scott Enterprises and Payless Shoe Source. Matt Gregoroff,** a member of the Church of the Nativity, coordinates the event.

Summer Splash —If you ask the children who attend the Emmaus Kids Cafe—What’s your favorite summer event?—the answer is a no-brainer. “The trip to Splash Lagoon is what they look forward to and what they talk about all year long,” said Stephanie Taylor, coordinator of the after-school and summer program. As in previous years, the event began with a bus ride to Payless Shoe Store Source in the Liberty Plaza for a new pair of school shoes. “These are the most awesome shoes in the universe,” exclaimed seven-year-old Jamel who chose a pair of gray and orange sneakers. Then it was off to Splash Lagoon

Pizza! Pizza! Dinner —What a surprise greeted the long line of guests waiting to enter Emmaus soup kitchen one day this summer. “**Little Caesars Love Kitchen**” was waiting for them. Local franchise owners **Lynn and Dale McBrier** arranged for the full-size pizza kitchen on wheels to come to Erie and serve 240+ guests with the famous “hot and ready” pizza. “Our guests were thrilled to have Little Caesar’s prepare their dinner,” said Emmaus cook, Shirley Whaley. “It’s a love kitchen all right. You could feel the ‘love’ from their kitchen right into ours—for all our



Rick Moreno, Operator, Little Caesar’s Love Kitchen and Sister Mary Miller

guests.” The Love Kitchen travels the continental United States and parts of Canada serving a quality meal to those in need—the hungry, homeless and disaster victims. The McBriers also make sure that boxes of “Pizza! Pizza!” are delivered to Sister Gus’ Kids Cafe twice a month.



Golden Year — **The children from the Kids Cafe** who presented Sister Mary Miller, director of Emmaus, with a bouquet of flowers, a handmade card and a song, are a great representation of the many people of Erie who join with her in celebrating 50 years of religious life. Sister Mary Miller officially celebrates her 50th Jubilee on Saturday, September 13 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO...

ERIE GIVES DAY

and the 218 donors who contributed a record-breaking \$21,495 to Emmaus Ministries in the annual one-day, city-wide, online giving event sponsored by the **Erie Community Foundation.** What is especially heartening is that Emmaus ranked Number 5 in number of donors and Number 24 in monies raised among 300 of Erie’s non-profits. All non-profits who participate receive a pro-rated match of a \$200,000 pool from the **ECF, GE Transportation, Erie Insurance** and **Presque Isle Casino & Gaming.**

OTHER DONORS

Members at the **Eastside YMCA** who designated Sister Gus’ Kids Cafe for their monthly collection... **Mechanical Contractors Association of Northwest PA** for its cash donation of \$1,000... **Auto Racers for Kids Charities** who designated Sister Gus’ Kids Cafe as one of the organizations to receive proceeds from its annual golf classic and Kids Night at Erie Speedway... An **anonymous donor** who donated 100 Erie Zoo passes to Emmaus families... **Gannon University Basketball Coach John Reilly** who invited 9 Sister Gus’ Kids Cafe boys to attend Gannon University Mens Basketball Camp for Boys... **Corey Meyers,** a member of Our Lady of Peace Parish, who organized “Rock for a Cause IV,” a band benefit concert for Emmaus Soup Kitchen.



On Erie Gives Day, Erie Restoration employees from left, Gary Oehling, Jean Kloecker, Marielle Trucilla and Stephen Sweny pledged \$1,000 to Emmaus Ministries.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The **Erie County CROP Hunger Walk** on Sunday, **September 28th** at Beach 1 on Presque Isle at 1:30 PM. Local hunger agencies such as Emmaus benefit from this annual event. For more information visit www.cropwalkerie.org



The **2nd Annual Harvest Fest** hosted by **Emmaus Grove: The Erie Urban Farm School** on **October 5** from noon to 4 p.m. Music by Tennessee Back Porch, refreshments, raffle baskets and more....



Rev. Bob Lewis, Coordinator, Erie County CROP Hunger Walk and from left, Margaret Kloecker and Sister Mary Miller of Emmaus.

In Memory

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

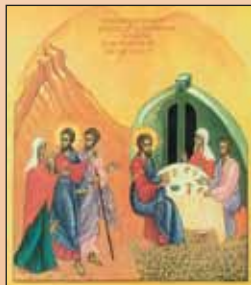
Lawrence A. "Larry" Bush
 Richard G. "Papa" Chilcott
 Mae Frances McCullum "Sis" Corder
 Rose M. (Pontoriero) George
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 Blanche S. Jendrock

Evelyn Lynch Kiehlmeier
 Theresa M. "Terry" Olszewski
 Charles R. Perry
 Reverend Russell T. Williams
 Delores B. "Beatty" Wnek
 Ruth (Petroff) Zuravleff,
 Soup Kitchen Volunteer

www.emmauserie.org

EMMAUS ICON

Icon *Road to Emmaus*
 Iconographer: Sister Marie-Paul, OSB
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They came to know Him in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:35

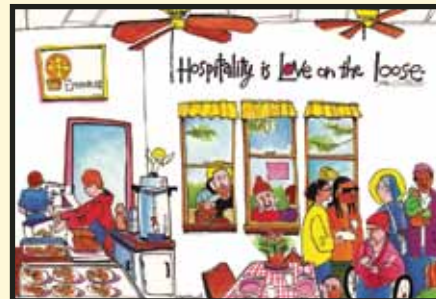
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2015 Joan Chittister Calendar



The painting of Emmaus Soup Kitchen by Brother Mickey McGrath is one of the good works of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie included in the 2015 Joan Chittister calendar. This unique calendar is the best of two worlds—the inspiring and penetrating insights of Joan Chittister and the playful, but profound, style of Brother Mickey.

Order your calendar at www.benetvision.org