

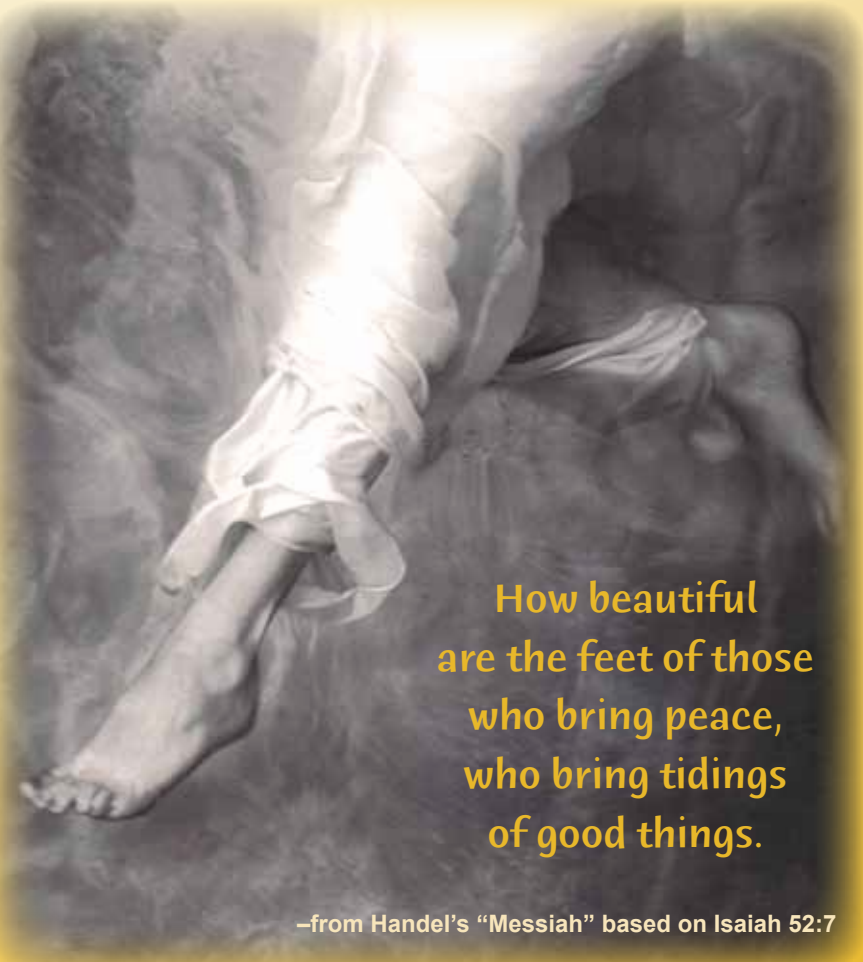


Emmaus Ministries • 345 East Ninth Street • Erie, PA 16503-1107 • (814) 459-8349
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The Companion

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Descending Angel by John Wimbentley (1981)



How beautiful
are the feet of those
who bring peace,
who bring tidings
of good things.

—from Handel's "Messiah" based on Isaiah 52:7

FROM SISTER MARY:

Dear Friends of Emmaus,

During the Easter season, I was listening to "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring peace..." from Handel's Messiah and found myself wondering: Who brings peace and good things to me? Does Emmaus bring peace and good things to anyone?

My answer to the first question surprised me. Do you know what brings me great peace? It's walking into the soup kitchen, especially when I'm by myself, and seeing the pictures on our walls. We have seven different artistic renditions of the Emmaus story from Scripture—one traditional and six contemporary—hanging on one wall. Not only do I find stillness of soul just gazing at the beauty of the paintings, but I also believe that we relive this Scripture story every day at Emmaus. All of us—guests, volunteers and staff—break bread together and recognize the Jesus in each other. And that heartfelt belief brings both meaning and peace.

On another wall is a picture of the four women murdered in El Salvador over 30 years ago—Maura Clark, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan. Their crime was an Emmaus crime—walking with the poor and recognizing the sacred face of Jesus in them. I always say a prayer to the four women. I ask them to look out for the poor of Erie, especially those who break bread at the kitchen, and I ask them to give me the courage needed to stand with the poor no matter the consequences. Always...always... these few minutes a day with the 4 Martyrs of El Salvador fill me with an abiding trust and peace.

Finally I like to look at the portrait of Larry, a long-time homeless guest at Emmaus, who is now deceased. Larry is my best answer to the question: Does Emmaus bring peace and good things to anyone? Larry doesn't let me fool myself. Emmaus brings only a moment of peace and an iota of good things to the poor of Erie. But it is a moment where we can spark, in even the bleakest life, a touch of goodness and of resurrection. My prayer, when I look at the picture of Larry, is: "Dear God, may every Larry who comes to this kitchen be able to say of the Emmaus family, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring peace, who bring tidings of good things.'"

Sister Mary



How beautiful are the feet of Emmaus volunteers who bring peace...tidings of good things

David Seyboldt, Emmaus board member, is currently preparing for his second trip to Africa to help provide safe drinking water to villagers. In 2013 he traveled to Zambia and Malawi with the Marion Medical Mission to install shallow water wells, one of which provides clean water to 150 people. (Marion Medical Mission installed 2,999 wells in 2013.)

"I was getting a call to do this work and not paying attention," David explained. "When my wife, Evy, and I went on an African Safari, I saw the women carrying water jugs on their heads and became aware of how serious a problem water was. Then a friend who was part of Medical Mission asked me to volunteer. And, finally, I went to Grandparents Day at my grandchild's elementary school and on the walls were quotes and pictures about Africa and clean water. Next thing I knew I was on my way to Africa."



Emmaus board member David Seyboldt and Evy Seyboldt, a weekly volunteer at Emmaus for 25 years

A couple that likes to do service together, Evy and David signed up this year to be regular volunteers at Emmaus Grove: The Erie Urban Farm School. "Evy talked to me about the garden after attending an orientation meeting," explained David. "We liked the garden-to-table concept. With relatively little effort in the growing, the benefit is significant: fresh food to supplement the soup kitchen and distribute at the food pantry."

Dave Seyboldt is part of the Emmaus family that brings peace and good things to people everywhere—both locally and globally.



Joan Martter got her idea from reading a story in a Cleveland newspaper about a national effort named "100+ Women Who Care." "I can do this where I live," she said to herself. And with a little help from her friends, she did." Joan and her friend, Kathi Umpleby invited 135 Fairview women "to bring peace and tidings of good things" in a most simple way.

The women were asked to gather for one hour, bringing the name of a favorite local charity and a blank check for \$100. The names of the eighty-one women who responded were put in a bowl and three were drawn. When Peggy Glass's name was drawn, she asked her sister-in-law Kelley Glass, a long-time Emmaus volunteer and supporter, to speak on behalf of the soup kitchen. After Kelley's impassioned talk, the women, by majority vote, selected Emmaus to receive the \$8,100 check.

"I was amazed at how easily it all came together," said Joan, "and it gives women a great way to maximize impact."

Martter, an employee of the Fairview School District, is no stranger to Emmaus. For many years she has helped Sister Rosanne Lindal-Hynes with the Emmaus Children's Christmas Program. As advisor to the Key Club at Fairview High School, she introduced students to Emmaus who now bake and deliver desserts once a month to the soup kitchen and at Christmas purchase gifts for Emmaus children.

The 2013-14 motto of the Fairview School District is, "If not me, who? If not now, when?" Joan Martter mirrors the motto.



Kelley Glass and Joan Martter have been neighbors for 20 years and walking partners for twelve.



"We used to drive down the streets of Erie and only see buildings, now we see the people...people we can call by name," explained Mary Hoffman. She was reflecting on her and Mary Ellen Lieb's experience of coordinating a two week homeless shelter at their home parish, Saint John's Catholic Church, this winter. The two friends organized 200 volunteers from four eastside Catholic parishes to daily staff, clean and prepare meals as part of a city-wide ecumenical effort where homeless shelters rotated among churches that voluntarily opened their doors for a fourteen-day period. "The experience changed Mary

Ellen and me," explained Mary. "We got to know each guest not as a homeless person, but as a human being with a name and a story. So now, when we see them on the streets, it's tough...because now we care about them personally."



Mary Ellen Lieb and Mary Hoffman

A homeless shelter is only the latest self-giving effort of these two longtime friends, neighbors and retired special education teachers. Every 5th Thursday of the month Mary and Mary Ellen organize family and friends to prepare and serve the soup kitchen meal at Emmaus. Desserts for that day are prepared by mentally challenged adults who are part of a day program that Mary helped found through the Millcreek Township School District. The two friends also founded Inspire, a local theatre troupe for the mentally challenged that performs an annual off-Broadway musical. "I went to see their production of Godspell this year, said Sister Mary Miller. "As far as theatre experience goes, this was over the top."

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring peace and good things? Just ask the homeless, the soup kitchen guests, the special needs community of Erie and many others about Mary Ellen Lieb and Mary Hoffman.

FACE TO FACE:

We asked Emmaus volunteers, children and staff:
WHAT BRINGS YOU PEACE?



Danozjna, Kids Cafe, age 11

Seeing Miss Becky each day at Kids Cafe brings me peace. She is a friend to me. Our friendship inspires me.

**Carol Lee Restifo
Kids Cafe Volunteer**

Doing volunteer work brings me peace. My own problems get pushed aside, I leave them to God. When I am giving to others I experience a sense of peace and know I am needed and that reassures me.



Sam Miller, Soup Kitchen Volunteer

Music brings me peace. I like quiet music, like Gregorian Chant because it leads me into meditation. The words and melody disappear and my thoughts just flow.



**Kay Sauers
Soup Kitchen Volunteer**

I experience a great deal of peace taking a long car drive, just me and my dog, Brody. I am able to focus on the beauty of the scenery and it relaxes and refreshes me. I miss my red convertible—I really liked it, taking a drive in it with the roof down!



**Travis Lindsey
Soup Kitchen Volunteer**

I find peace when I walk in the woods and hear the sounds of nature, not the noise of the city. Just listening to a tree when a breeze passes through it or looking at plants and flowers in silence brings me peace.



Irvina Salter, Kids Cafe Staff

Having my grandchildren around me, that brings me peace. I can't wait to spend time with them. I have them at my house as much as I can.



Food for the Soul...



by Leszek Forczek of Illuminism-Aquarelle.com
Used with permission.

Washing of the Feet X

Novelist Luigi Santucci once wrote that if he could have some relic of Christ's passion, he'd choose the bowl of dirty water (which Jesus used to wash the disciples feet at the Last Supper). He'd take it into the streets, he tells us, passing from person to person, looking only at their feet and never at their faces—so he couldn't tell friend from foe. Popes and presidents, drug dealers and arms merchants, gurgling babies and adoring grandparents, petty thieves and scam artists, prom queens and disc jockeys: he'd wash the feet of everyone—and keep on washing until they understood. Deciding whom to save isn't our job. Our job is choosing whom to serve. And Jesus' example suggests we should be absolutely indiscriminate in our judgment. Look at feet, not faces.

--from "Daybreaks" by Nathan D. Mitchell

FOR the RECORD:

“PIZZA, PIZZA”

The children at the Kids Cafe might say “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring pizza.” Or, “Pizza, Pizza.” This year Little Ceasars began delivering hot



pizza twice a month to the children’s after-school program sponsored by Emmaus. “There’s such excitement on pizza day,” said Stephanie Taylor, coordinator of the Kids Cafe, “how the children look forward to it.”

In addition to the generous gesture from Little Ceasars, there’s this charming story: Margaret Kloecker,

Emmaus staff, went to Little Ceasars to pick up a few pizzas for a party she was having and struck up a conversation with one of the clerks, thanking her for sending pizzas to the Kids Cafe. The young woman said, “Oh, I really care for those children. I pray for all of them while I’m preparing and baking their pizzas.”

HOLY THURSDAY MEAL

Two hundred guests enjoyed the annual Holy Thursday dinner at the soup kitchen, feasting on shared prayer, a full course meal, a beautiful environment and good conversation.

Sister Mary Miller, Emmaus Director, began the celebration by inviting three young children—a brother and two sisters—to hold a basket filled with dinner rolls. Then the guests blessed the meal together and prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

A ham dinner with green beans, tossed salad, cheesy hash browns, rolls and cake, was served by the Emmaus staff and twenty volunteers who were on retreat at Mount Saint Benedict.



Table decorations included candy, colored eggs, potted spring flowers and Easter themed placemats drawn by children at the Inner City Neighborhood Art House.



FOR the RECORD:

A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY

When David Hallman III was fourteen-years-old he came to the Christmas store at the Kids Cafe to help his mother wrap presents. He struck up a conversation with a Kids Cafe girl and asked her, “What do you want Santa to bring you?” The girl answered, “A warm house.” When David got in the car to go home he said, “Mom, that little girl I was talking to has no heat in her house. Can’t we do something?” His mom, Andrea, contacted Sister Mary Miller who contacted National Fuel and something was done—heat was restored to the house.



When Sister Mary went to visit the house to make sure everything was all right, the little girl met her at the door dressed in a bathrobe with towel around her hair. “We have hot water,” she said with a big smile. “I’ll always remember David for the unusual sensitivity he showed as a teenager,” said Sister Mary. David Hallman III died tragically at the age of 21 in February of this year, but in his brief life he brought peace and good things to everyone he met.

BRINGERS OF PEACE



Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowsky, founding mother and first director of Emmaus, was named one of the “Women Making History 2014” by the Mercy Center for Women at an event held at Mercyhurst University on April 1.

The dedication of a memorial archive room in honor of Joan D. Chittister, OSB, Emmaus board member, as well as the inauguration of an annual lecture series in her name took place at Mercyhurst University, Erie, in late April. While Sister Joan’s archives will be housed on Penn State University’s main campus, both Mercyhurst and Mount St. Benedict will maintain permanent archive rooms with access to her books, articles and other memorabilia.



Let us give thanks to...

GANNONDALE for donating personal care items, office supplies, garden tools and a truckload of household items—blankets, bedding, and dinnerware—to distribute to the poor following its announcement that after 80 years of service, it was closing as a secure residential facility to court-placed young women...**ERIE COUNTY CROP WALK** for \$1300 given to Emmaus as a result of 2013 annual fall walk...**THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ERIE** for continuing its tradition of a Give-A-Way event and sending four truckloads of items to distribute to Emmaus pantry guests...**THE ERIE BAYHAWKS**, an NBA affiliate, and its mascot, Clutch, who spent an afternoon teaching and playing basketball with the Kids Cafe children at the Saint Benedict Community Center...**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL ADVISORS (NAIFA) ERIE CHAPTER** who, for the 15th consecutive year took up a collection for Emmaus because, as a member explained, “we trust it.”...**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP OF OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH** for spending two frigid January nights outside in a cardboard box village to raise awareness about the homeless and for standing at the church doors collecting money for Emmaus following the Sunday liturgies...**GENERAL ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND** for donating \$15,000 to Emmaus, the largest donation given to an organization in over ten years of giving, according to Rob Celeski, chairman...**PEEBLES DEPARTMENT STORE CUSTOMERS** in Erie, PA for donating over \$1900 to Emmaus as part of the national chain’s “30 Days of Giving” program. Sherrie McGrath, store manager, chose Emmaus as the local charity for 2014. Customers who donated received Community Counts Savings Passes from Peebles.

In Memory

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

George W. Anthony,
Food Pantry Volunteer
John W. “Jack” Anderson, Jr.
Marian A. (Walsh) Cook
Richard (Dick) A. Cooney
Charles W. Evanoff
Lucille Resignola Fachetti
Marie Youngbauer Figurski
Ann T. Zohorsky Hart
David Marshall Hallman III
Genevieve D. DeLuca Hurst
John “Jack” Kenehan

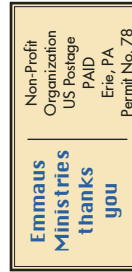
Violet May Fisher Lusianno,
Soup Kitchen Volunteer
Richard C. “Dick” Menosky
John P. Merkel
Irene J. Baranski Miazga
Russell Norman Mosher, Sr.
Kathleen F. (Schneider) Sedelmyer
Gregg R. Theiss
John (Jack) H. Williams

We also remember:
Richard Albert Spensley,
Kids Cafe Volunteer

STAFF: Mary Miller, OSB; Margaret Kloecker; Claire Marie Surmik, OSB; Lucia Surmik, OSB
Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB; Stephanie Taylor; Rita Scrimanti; Shirley Whaley
Companion Editor, Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB; Layout, Judy Allison

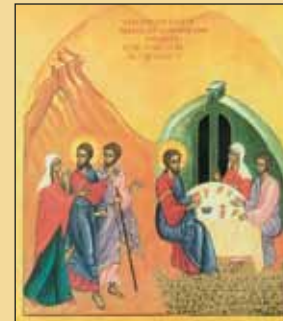


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Marie-Paul, OSB
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They came
to know Him
in the breaking
of the bread.

Luke 24:35