



## *FROM SISTER MARY:*

Dear Friends of Emmaus,

The photo on the cover of this newsletter—one that I took—reminds me of the Emmaus story.

I look at those worn boots and think of all the people who join me on the road to Emmaus each day—the volunteers, the staff, the guests, the benefactors. We are all like the two disciples who fled Jerusalem after the crucifixion trying to make sense of life. Often we are lost, confused, uncertain, disbelieving. In the Emmaus Scripture story (Luke 24: 13-35) the two disciples meet a stranger and don't recognize their teacher, the risen Christ. But they take a chance on trust. They begin telling him intimate stories, sharing with him their cowardice, failures, dreams and hopes. The stranger responds and agrees to continue the conversation over the evening meal when they arrive at the town of Emmaus. And it is in the breaking of the bread, that they recognize the Christ.

The breaking of bread is important, but so is the storytelling that preceded it. An Emmaus moment—a bit of insight into life's meaning—happens, I believe, when we take the chance to share our stories, our broken lives with others. The breaking of the bread happens when the beauty of the person breaks through and we recognize the God within.

*Sister Mary*



## FACE TO FACE: ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS ART

An internet search of “Emmaus” will surface numerous images of the New Testament scripture told in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35). Since Emmaus is named after this story, we chose a handful of images and asked Emmaus friends and staff to choose one and comment on how the image spoke to them.

Road to Emmaus by Daniel Bonnell, with permission

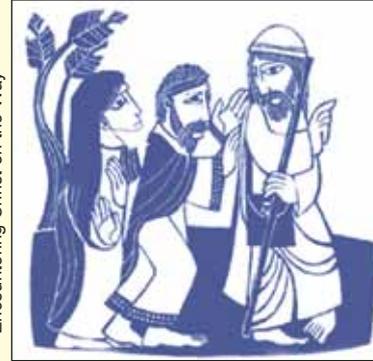


This is not my favorite artwork of the Road to Emmaus, but I chose it because the people in the picture get their identity from the observer...we each conjure up people in our minds that bring comfort and beauty to our beliefs. It represents a sense of unrest *and* calm to me. The dark clouds remind me of being preoccupied with our own difficulties (the disciples not understanding the events of the past three days), which results in not recognizing Jesus. The setting sun brings calm as we look forward to the rising sun and peace with Jesus by our side. The light from the setting sun allows us to see more clearly and opens our eyes to his presence. At the end of the day, we break bread together and share in fellowship and the beauty of each and everyone present.

—Mary Hoffman, volunteer

The woman in the back is gently pushing the man forward while the man is leaning against the Christ (whom they still do not recognize). The image compelled me to revisit Luke’s Emmaus passage, and I was captured by Luke 24:22:

RETREAT LOGO - Awakened Hearts  
Encountering Christ on the Way



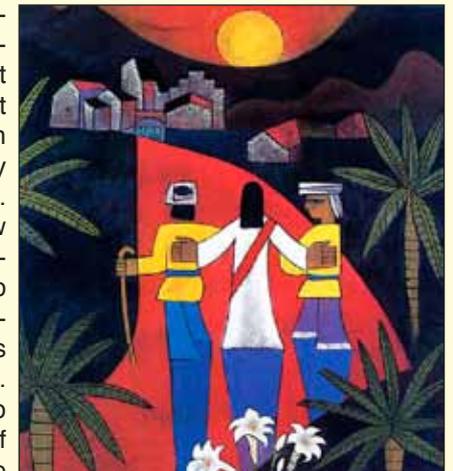
“Some women from our group, however, have astounded us.” My heart is filled with gratitude for the women who push us forward despite many obstacles. Somehow, from the back of the line, women, and in particular women’s religious communities, have pushed us towards Christ and towards the Gospel. I am astounded by the women in our church who continue to care for those on the margins (as did Jesus), who continue to tell stories of hope

and healing in a broken world (as did Jesus) and who continue to push the wandering people of God towards transformation (as did Jesus).

—Greg Baker, volunteer and Director of Campus Ministry, Mercyhurst University

This painting captures my favorite time of day and life theme—coming home to loved ones at sunset for an evening meal together. It doesn’t matter how long we’ve been on the road or what kind of day we’ve had—we’re coming home. The perspective with which we view the figures—seeing them from behind—draws me right into the group as does Jesus’ comforting yet challenging gesture of putting his arms around the distraught companions. How can one not join the group and head toward the sacrament of home, family, hope and new grace together? I support Emmaus Ministries because it provides this same “coming home” opportunity for those in need. The companions are somewhat genderless and, as a woman, I can identify with them, too.

—Betsy Monsalve, friend and benefactor



Road to Emmaus by He Qi



I know this is the more traditional depiction of the Emmaus story but I think it tells the familiar story best and invites you onto the road to Emmaus. It's not offensive to me as a woman because Jesus' companions can be either male or female.

I like it, too because it looks like Jesus and the disciples are having a serious conversation about things that matter. To me this painting best narrates the underlying story of Emmaus—Jesus finds us where we are. I believe that for most of our lives we think “God isn't here” and in order to find God we have to go somewhere, we have to do something, we have to be or say something, yet Jesus is where we are, where they were. Jesus hears all the conversation, talks with them and their eyes are opened later. They wanted him to stay. When you find people who give life to your life that you encounter on the way, you want them to be with you longer. Stay with us a little longer. Notice there is no technology in this painting—no cell phone, TV, DVD, VCRs—only a human encounter.

—Ann Vinca, coordinator, Emmaus Kids Cafe

Editor's note: This print hangs in the Emmaus Soup Kitchen.



Oh, God,  
Who on Holy Thursday  
said to your followers,  
“This is my body,  
broken for you,”  
permit us to use  
this occasion  
to offer you all  
our broken dreams,  
our broken promises,  
promises we made  
both to others  
and to ourselves;  
take the broken bodies  
of some of us,  
and the broken hearts  
of all of us.  
and take to yourself  
everything about us  
that we may not know  
is broken,  
or is going to be broken,  
and make all things  
whole again in you.  
Amen.

by Gail Godwin  
from Fr. Melancholy's Daughter



## Holy Week—Let Us Pray



### HOLY WEEK IS A SPECIAL TIME AT EMMAUS.

A festive, four-course meal is served to all the guests on Holy Thursday. “We have done this beautiful meal for 32 years,” explained Sister Mary Miller, “always in memory of the Last Supper where Jesus shared a meal with friends, broke bread and invited his followers to follow his example of service, love and forgiveness.” The 12 people participating in the annual Holy Week retreat at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery once again helped serve the meal and visited with the guests. On Good Friday, Emmaus was one of the living stations during the Benedictine Sisters Annual Good Friday Walk through downtown Erie.



## FOCUS FEATURE: CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT



**STILL GOING:** When Sisters Lucia (at left in photo) and Claire Marie Summik, biological sisters, as well as members of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, both had knee surgery, people expected them to retire as staff of Emmaus. But nuns rarely take full retirement—even when they turn 79 and 78 years old respectively. Instead, Lucia and Claire Marie will continue to manage the Emmaus Food Pantry. “We love the people at Emmaus. Why should we retire?” said Lucia. And

Claire Marie added, “We both have new knees now and can move better than we have in years. We can’t wait to get back.” Emmaus guests and volunteers can’t wait until they get back either.

**CHEF WHALEY:** The new executive chef at Emmaus Soup Kitchen is Shirley Whaley. “Besides being an excellent cook and organizer, Shirley has a great heart for our mission and brings a calm, reflective presence to what can sometimes become a chaotic and volatile situation,” said Sister Mary Miller, director of Emmaus. Shirley began her cooking career at home in the 1950s to help her mother, a nurse, while she was at work. She has a long-time relationship with the Benedictine Sisters, 15 years total between the Monastery and Glinodo Conference Center.



**WE HATE GOODBYES:** “Why are you leaving us?” the children at the Kids Cafe asked Colleen Burbules who had served for six years as assistant to the coordinator. She told them that she had just finished her studies and needed a job that would help pay back school loans. “We’ll help you,” two of the children said digging into their pockets and handing Colleen some change. “Now will you stay?”



Ann Vinca, coordinator of the Kids Cafe, understands the children’s reaction. She said, “Everyone will deeply miss Colleen. She brought a caring, consistent and steady presence to the Kids Cafe. You could count on Colleen and she loved the children unconditionally.” Colleen not only

has a new job but has completed a Masters in Organizational Leadership at Mercyhurst University. The entire Emmaus family thanks Colleen and wishes her God speed.

## FOR the RECORD

**WOMAN MAKING HISTORY:** Mary Hoffman, an Emmaus volunteer, was named one of the Women Making History 2012 by Mercy Center for Women. Each year the Mercy Center honors phenomenal women in the Erie community. When asked about her philosophy of life she referred to a favorite quote by Erma Bombeck, “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’” Mary’s commitment to the poor and hungry in our community is demonstrated each month when she and a group of friends prepare and serve the evening meal at Emmaus. The Emmaus family extends its congratulations on a well- deserved honor.



**HOOP HEROES:** On a scale of 1 to 10 the visit by Gannon University’s Women’s Basketball Team always “scores 11,” said Ann Vinca, coordinator of the Emmaus Kids Cafe.



**SUMMER SUDS:** In 35 years of its existence, Emmaus Soup Kitchen has never had a gift like this—3,600 bars of wrapped Blue Grass Soap and 3,000 Body Scrubs. The gift came from Organic Grooming, a Minneapolis company with roots in the Erie region. The company is relabeling their product line and Lisa Vukmer, one of the owners who is originally from the Erie area, remembered her mother talking about Emmaus and made the donation. “Good soap like this is a real luxury for our kitchen and pantry guests,” said Margaret Kloecker, administrative assistant, who helped unload the delivery truck.



Food Pantry volunteer, Leonard Sly, gives soap and scrub to guests Heidi and daughter, Ayva.

*Let us give thanks to...*

**Gannon University** students, faculty, staff and alumni who participated in the United Way Day of Caring on Saturday, April 21, by preparing the two Emmaus gardens...

**Villa Maria Academy Student Council** who sponsored a food drive for the Emmaus Soup Kitchen...

**Share Group**, a gathering of anonymous women, who prepared and delivered 20 Easter baskets to the soup kitchen...

**Members of Grace Church** who gave the Emmaus Soup Kitchen its best spring cleaning ever...

**George Devenney, owner Eden Run Farms and Stables**, North East, PA who, for the fourth consecutive year, donated 250 pounds of Scottish Highlander "all natural" beef, wrapped in one pound packages...

**Chris Cook and Miles Brook, seniors at Gannon University**, who served an internship/field placement at the Emmaus Kids Cafe from January until graduation in May...

**Matt DeForce and his Chili Pen Pods—Stella Austin, Jim Wisniewski, Jim McCormick and Mark Stablein**—who cooked 30 gallons of their award winning chili con carne for Emmaus Soup Kitchen guests.

**Fr. Scott Detisch designated Emmaus as a recipient of donations in lieu of gifts for his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood.**

Dear Mary,

The degree to which I am grateful for the wonderful generosity of the people of Holy Cross on the occasion of my 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary can only be matched by the degree to which I am inspired by the work you do at Emmaus Ministries.

What a gift all of you are to God's special people in need. What a standard all of you set for the manner in which we all need to follow in to the footsteps of Christ.

Please accept the enclosed donations as a sign of the gratitude of the people of Holy Cross for what you do.

God's peace, Scott Detisch

### *In Memory*

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

Agatha M. Felix Menzel  
Arborgast Brugger

Karen A. DeCarolis  
Mabel Diehl

Vincent Edward Heidt  
Edna Mae (Will) Hetherington

Stella S. Hrynciw Hinds  
Mary Viglione Klemen  
Christine Saber

Mary Ann Parisi Savelli  
Anna Pepicello Whitney

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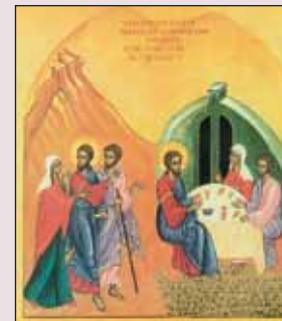
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[www.emmauserie.org](http://www.emmauserie.org)

#### **EMMAUS ICON**

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



They came to know Him in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:35