



Be
faithful
to
the
song
within
you.

Joan Chittister

FROM SISTER MARY:

HOW WAS YOUR SUMMER? is a common question. But it's one that I'd like to answer by telling you about two experiences that were extremely meaningful to me.

One took place in late June when I addressed the support rally for



Nuns on the Bus held at U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly's Erie office. As you probably read, Nuns on the Bus was a nine state, 15-day bus tour to educate people on the budget plan submitted by U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wisconsin) who claimed the plan coincided with Catholic Social Teaching. NETWORK, the Catholic Sisters lobbying group in Washington, D.C. organized the tour.

Sister Mary speaks to the crowd at the support rally for Nuns on the Bus.

I participated in the rally because many of our Emmaus families would be directly affected by these budget cuts. I called attention to the facts that, among other things, the budget plan would mean \$66.3 million in cuts from Pennsylvania Head Start budget over two years, eliminating 9,754 Head Start pre-school slots and would mean 159 million fewer meals for low-income Pennsylvania families, many of them right here in Erie. This kind of budget allotment is contrary to Catholic Social Teaching.

My second experience was going to Chautauqua Institution with the Emmaus staff to hear a real, in-the-flesh inspiration to our ministry, Jesuit Greg Boyle, author of *Tattoos on the Heart*. This best-selling and award-winning book chronicles Boyle's day-by-day dealings with his "homeboys" and "homegirls," former members of more than 700 different gangs in Los Angeles. (www.homeboyindustries.org)

Fr. Greg shared many wisdom stories and insights from 30 years

of trying to meet each young person with the unconditional love of God. I was especially moved by his insight into this line from the Acts of the Apostles—“An awe came upon everyone.” Acts: 2:43 Fr. Greg said that we can measure any community by the AWE that is experienced there. He explained that being in awe of one another moves us away from judgment. We cannot be in awe of another person and judge them negatively at the same time. It reminded me of the Thomas Merton quote that if we really could see each person as they truly are we would bow down before each other. My hope is that at the Pantry, Kids Cafe and Soup Kitchen “an awe comes upon us all.”

Sister Mary

...The Emmaus Staff responds to Greg Boyle's message

RITA SCRIMENTI:

Greg Boyle's message to me was “Yes.” Yes, you are about the work of spreading the gospel message of social justice. Yes, your work and approach make a difference. Yes, continue to build relationships, create community and treat people with dignity, respect and love. Yes, it is a challenge. Yes, it matters. Yes, keep at it. Yes.

SISTER ROSANNE LINDAL-HYNES:

Greg said that we should be present to each person that we meet, really look at that person as a part of ourselves. The day after hearing Fr. Greg, I tried to practice that at the soup kitchen, gazing at each person with a kind eye. One of our guests looked at me and said, “Don't

ever forget how beautiful you are, sister. Why even your clothes blush.” Here I was trying to make their day and this soup kitchen poet looked at me anew and made mine.

MARGARET KLOECKER:

Greg Boyle's message to me was hope. We need to infuse kids with hope. We need to travel their road with them, not try to make them just like us. These kids carry a heavy load that we do not have to bear. We want to effect big change but success is in the small things. My hope is that the Emmaus kids know that we love them, protect them, and want the best for them. When I meet one of our kids years after they leave our program and they are excited and happy to see me then I know that we did something right.



ANN VINCA: Hearing Greg Boyle helped me remember what I believe about who God is. Greg reminded me through story and personal experiences that God is all love, all good, and God loves me totally and fully. If I can accept myself in that love then I can share that love with other people. This is my life's purpose. Greg said it simply, “Imitate the God you believe in.”

L. to R.: Sister Mary, Rita Scrimenti, Margaret Kloecker, Father Greg, Sister Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, Sister Marian Wehler, Ann Vinca

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION by Andrea



THE ANNUAL KIDS CAFE DAY TRIP to Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park and Payless Shoe Source took place on the last Friday of July. In 2001 Denny Oswalt organized the first event and sponsored it each year until his unexpected death in 2006. Matt Gregoroff and members of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity generously stepped forward to help with the event that involved 56 children, 10 volunteers and 7 staff.



My name is Andrea and I am 10 years old. If my teacher asks me to write about something I did over my summer vacation that will be easy, I will write about my field trip day with the Kids Cafe.

It was fun. No, it was more than that. It was capital FUN fun and here are some reasons why.

Reason #1. This was my first field trip to Payless and Splash Lagoon with the Kids Cafe. I even packed 2 bathing suits for the trip. When another girl told me that she did not bring a bathing suit, I let her use one of mine. I wanted her to have a fun time too.



#2. I got a new pair of school shoes for free. I chose a pair of high top sneakers. A sales lady at the store measured my foot for the right size. A Kids Cafe volunteer helped me pick out and try on my shoes. Can you believe it? I've got a pair of new sneakers.

#3. I rode on the bus with my friends Shania and "Bug". I have lots of friends at Kids Cafe.

#4. We had a pizza lunch waiting for us in a party room. The room was just for us, all 56 of us.



#5. Now for more fun. I think I tried every ride, the Lava pool, the Tiki Tipping Bucket and a ride we called the "toilet" cause it swirls you around and then you drop into a pool of water. Ha, ha. The real name is the Cyclone. We played and played in the water. I floated on an inner tube down the Lazy River ride. I wore a life preserver in the Wild Waters Wave Pool, just to be safe. The waves can get pretty big. But, I knew the Lifeguards were watching out for me, too.



#6. Before we left we had cake and milk. Written on the cake was Welcome Kids Cafe.

#7. On the bus ride back I was tired but happy from all that water fun. When I got off the bus at the Kids Cafe, my new shoes were boxed up and waiting for me. I can't wait to wear them.

#8. Would I go on this super field trip again? Hmmm, yes, of course. I hope I can go again, next summer!

#9. Thanks to everybody—Mrs. Vinca, Ebony, Erin, Ashleigh, Teyona and all the volunteers from the Church of the Nativity, Kids Cafe volunteers and the nice people at Payless Shoes and Splash Lagoon Water Park.

THE END.



FOR THE RECORD

Summer Scrapbook

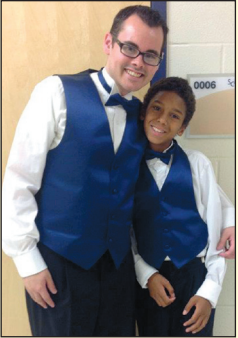
WE SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM

A favorite day for all Soup Kitchen guests takes place in July—the Hilbert Family Annual Ice Cream Sundae Day. Emmaus Board member and weekly volunteer, Martha Hilbert, once again organized family members—grandchildren Johnny, Tim, Olivia and daughter-in-law, Nancy—to serve gallons of Connie’s vanilla and chocolate ice cream complete with all the trimmings. And we mean all—sprinkles, maraschino cherries, two kinds of peanuts, whipped cream and three choices of syrups. This year even Martha’s hubby Bill came by—to supervise, of course.



KUDOS

Emmaus gives a standing ovation to Jamees Lewis, 13 years old, who attends the Kids Cafe and is a chorister of the Young People’s Chorus of Erie, recipient of numerous awards that World Choir Games held in Cincinnati, Ohio during July. More than 400 choirs and 20,000 singers participated in the 10-day event held in the United States for the first time this year. The Young People’s Chorus of Erie is for boys and girls ages 7-18. (Jamees is pictured at left with Rich Basler of YPC.)



A CAUSE TO ROCK

“A young person like Corey gives me great hope for the future,” said Sister Mary Miller, director of Emmaus. “He has the kind of caring heart and generous spirit of philanthropy that will make a difference, especially in the lives of the poor.” Sister Mary was talking about Corey Meyers, a high school senior, who organized “Rock for a Cause 2,” a fundraiser for Emmaus, July 21 at Frontier Park. For a donation of \$5, participants could listen to five rock bands perform from 3 p.m. to dusk. Corey, a faithful soup kitchen volunteer with Our Lady of Peace Church, developed the fundraising idea last year and expanded on it by adding a Chinese auction and concessions.



AN EARLY CHRISTMAS—*It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas for Emmaus... thanks to fundraisers from two organizations:*

SBA Alumnae: A Christmas in July event invited Saint Benedict Academy (SBA) Alumnae to return to their high school, “walk the halls,” recall “cherished memories,” and share punch and cookies with friends, classmates and former teachers. And, in the spirit of the holiday to donate a gift of clothing for a child, ages infancy to 14. Over 100 new outfits were donated to Emmaus.



Sister Mary Ellen Plumb, sister liaison to the SBA Board and Class of 1971, delivered gifts from the SBA Christmas in July to Sister Rosanne Lindal-Hynes who coordinates our Christmas gift program.

Connecting Hands: The Emmaus Christmas program also received over \$4,000 from Connecting Hands, a non-profit that coordinates large indoor yard sales to benefit local social service organizations. The two-day August yard sale was held at Connecto Electric Warehouse. The funds will be used to buy gifts for the Emmaus Christmas program.

Emmaus volunteer Marie Wolf, right, with Connecting Hands volunteer Pam Will



Let us give thanks to...

••• **St. Boniface Parish** for tithing the profit from its successful first annual old-fashioned country festival and naming Emmaus the recipient. ••• **Clara O. Miller**, 102-year-old retired school teacher, who passed away in May 2012 and remembered Emmaus in her estate. ••• **“The Spirit of Orange,”** the Syracuse Alumni Club of Northwest PA for serving its annual meal at the Emmaus Soup Kitchen in July. ••• **The Friends of the Poor** who organized a spectacular July 4th picnic for 2,500 of Erie’s neediest—supplying a free banquet and entertainment at Pfeiffer-Burleigh School playground, right across from Emmaus Pantry and Soup Kitchen. ••• **Janel Potratz of Potratz Floral Shop and Greenhouses** for donating several flats of tomato and pepper plants that were distributed to food pantry guests so they could start their own vegetable gardens. ••• **David Holmes**, an Emmaus Food Pantry volunteer, who donated three days of his time to paint the Soup Kitchen and Pantry and stain the handicap ramps. ••• **Cider Mills Apartments Social Committee** who donated 13 boxes of food items to Emmaus for emergency food needs.

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
Evelyn “Ganya” Orloff
Marie Antoinette Fazio Stark

Kyle J. Busch
Ronald J. Hahn Sr.
Louise Lyons
Virginia Catherine Weiser Lukawski
James Brian McGuinness
Violet H. Clark DiBello Matzke Rizzo
Jean A. Lockhart Sholtis
Luanna E. Young Thompson
Elizabeth “Betty” Casson Wilson



FOOD FOR THE SOUL

A Note on the Wall

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;
forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfishness,
of ulterior motives;
be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends;
and some true enemies;
be successful anyway.

What you spend years building, someone will destroy overnight;
build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous;
be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
give the world your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.



This prayer was reportedly found on the wall of Mother Teresa's room.

STAFF: Mary Miller, OSB; Margaret Kloecker; Claire Marie Surrnik, OSB; Lucia Surrnik, OSB
Rosanne Lindal-Hynes, OSB; Ann Dwyer Vinca; Rita Scrimenti; Shirley Whaley
Companion Editor, Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB; Layout, Judy Allison

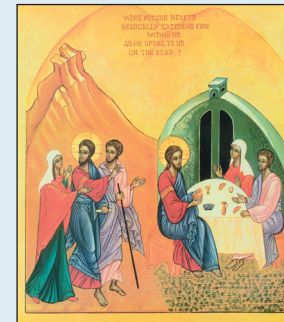


345 East Ninth Street • Erie, PA 16503-1107

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