



Recognizing Christ...



As you read this newsletter, we are moving through the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and soon to be Easter Sunday.

Sadly, during the COVID pandemic, we have already been experiencing an unrelenting twelve months of sorrow, pain, fear, and hopelessness (familiar feelings we experience during Lent). Such turmoil can make it even more challenging to anticipate Easter 2021 with much joy.

On the Wednesday within the Octave of Easter, the Gospel reading will come from Luke 24:13-35, The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus. It is one of my favorite passages and reminds me how easy it is to not “see” Christ amid confusion and darkness. I can identify with the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. As they came upon Christ that Easter morning, they did not recognize Him, perhaps due to their confusion regard-

ing the events that had occurred, their fear of the unknown, and the realization the tomb of their Lord was empty! How could anyone make sense of this? The disciples thought they were encountering a stranger, failing to see Christ as their friend and Savior. Regretfully, I also had had times when I lost sight and could not recognize Christ as I walked along my life’s path.

Christ’s earthly ministry was with the poor, the sick, the lame, the hungry, the thirsty, the imprisoned, and the isolated. He ministered to the least of the least. The disciples witnessed this firsthand. Jesus showed us how to love unconditionally. John 15:12 says, “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.” This command clearly shows us that God is love. Emmaus Ministry finds its purpose and mission in showing God’s love by being present to those in need within the neighborhoods on Syracuse’s south side, shining God’s light and love to those we serve.

While it is not always easy to

– Sheila Austin, RN., Director & President

see God within the darkness and distractions of life, we only need to look towards those around us who are struggling, frightened, isolated, and neglected. Reaching out to those in need is where we find the resurrected Christ, a merciful and loving God. We can rest assured that God is always with us, illuminating our way back to Him.



We are in need of special “Angels” to be monthly donors...

These “Angels” will help support essential services such as daily meals, the Mobile Meal Ministry, and the monthly grocery bags.

Monthly donations can be mailed to Emmaus Ministry or set up as a recurring gift at www.emmausministry.org.

Thank you in advance for your support!





Faith, Hope, and New Life...



Christians throughout the world are preparing to celebrate Easter, and with Easter comes faith, new life, and hope! These are all

things that our world so desperately needs right now. It is safe to say the past year has been filled with so much darkness due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many, the pandemic has brought unemployment, loss of the ability to have basic needs met, isolation, tremendous illness, and, sadly, the loss of life. In the midst of what seems to be unending darkness, Emmaus Ministry has been that oasis of faith, new life, and hope!

Thanks be to God and to the goodness of our volunteers, Emmaus did not have to shut its doors during the pandemic. All it took was some quick adjustments, and the ministry was able to continue. Most important-

ly, the meal service was not interrupted. Even though meals could no longer be served indoors, a daily meal has been provided, and the number of meals has increased substantially during the pandemic. Our guests could keep the FAITH that their needs would be provided for day in and day out. All around Emmaus Ministry, there have been signs of NEW LIFE. In the summer months, there was an overhaul to the grounds as the parking lot was resurfaced and the grounds sodded. A new flagpole was installed, and the United States flag flies proudly over our site as a reminder of the tremendous service provided by all of our veteran guests. In late fall, a canopy was constructed over the front door of the building. This offers the ability to hand out our meals and provide cover from the elements for our volunteers and guests. Another sign of new life is that a brand-new Dodge van was purchased for our

- Reverend John Manno, Vice President

mobile ministry. The van will allow volunteers to bring food to other locations in the area and feed people in need. The mobile ministry is so welcomed and needed at this time. The Vocare' (meaning to call) ministry was added as a way for us to stay in contact with our guests and make sure they are doing okay. As you might imagine, this simple type of advocacy has been so very well received. While there may be difficulties and challenges all around, Emmaus Ministry has been blessed with signs of new life and continued growth.

Emmaus Ministry has been and continues to be a light in the darkness for many. The light of Emmaus is a beacon of HOPE for so many. Emmaus reminds people daily that they will find a listening ear, a caring heart, the comfort and warmth of a meal, and the promise of prayer to get them through! This is Easter...this is faith, new life, and hope!

THANK YOU for your **2020 MEAL SERVICE** support to provide **34,764 MEALS** up from 11,944 in 2019!



We are so very grateful for the organizations that support us with their generosity. Our thanks go out to Matthew 25 Farm for their continued donations of fresh vegetables to assist us in feeding our guests.



Free Dental and Medical Clinic on the Horizon

At Emmaus Ministry, we are always seeking new ways to serve those who are in need. As we have been serving our guests over the past few years, we have heard their concerns related to their dental health. Many of our guests come to us with tooth pain, abscesses, and other ailments related to poor dental hygiene. Without access to a dental plan and with limited funds to cover their co-pays, our guests often go without visits to a dentist or dental hygienist for years at a time. When the pain becomes unbearable, they end up in the emergency room for treatment and then are still encouraged to find dental care.

Our next area of expansion is a free dental clinic. We will begin with preventative care such as cleanings and hygiene education, extractions, and fillings. A much-needed area of focus will be with young children, particularly those who are under school age. The sooner good dental hygiene practices begin, the improvement to an individual's general health, nutritional status, and overall well-being can occur. We hope to have all the children

we serve become regular visitors to the clinic.

Understanding the necessity for preventative oral health education, regular cleanings, and essential dental intervention, Emmaus Ministry needed to acquire additional space designated to these specific services. Last December, we offered to purchase our prior site of operation, at 4335 South Salina Street, along with two additional parcels within the same block. The offer was accepted. We anticipate closing on the properties in 30 -60 days. God willing!

Once the closing is finalized, phase one renovations at 4335 S. Salina Street will begin converting half of the building into a dental clinic. This phase will include an educational space, three dental chairs, an xray machine, an autoclave, and other supportive dental and office equipment. Phase two will focus on a medical component in the other half of the building. This portion will offer general health screenings for hypertension, diabetes, work physicals, etc., and to provide space for individual patient teaching, along with mental

and substance abuse counseling.

Discussions have begun with area dentists, hygienists, physicians, and nurse practitioners, to help layout the vision and its implementation. Emmaus Ministry will need support from area professionals and individuals to provide these necessary services.

If you are interested in joining us in this endeavor financially, as a volunteer, or just are looking for more information, please contact Sheila Austin: saustin@emmausministry.org or call 315.256.1982.

Adding this component to our existing services of the underserved in Syracuse compliments the mission of Emmaus Ministry. We envision "bridging" essential health and dental services to individuals who are already coming to our center. Please keep us in prayer as God continues to bless and open doors to serve His people. As we move forward, we will look for assistance through grant opportunities and the generosity of our Emmaus benefactors to help bring healthy and bright smiles to Syracuse's southside!

Items of need **WISH LIST** Items of need



- Bar soap (full sized)
- Deodorant (men & women)
- Diapers (newborn - 6)
- Paper towels
- Shampoo
- Toilet paper
- Underwear* (men & women)
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste

*By law, we can only accept new and in store packages unopened. We recommend used clothing be taken to the Rescue Mission on Gifford Street for the items to get to the people most in need.



Thank you for your generous support of Emmaus Ministry

Grants

The Jim & Juli Boeheim Foundation
 Mother Cabrini Health Foundation
 Upstate Shredding, LLC

Matching Gifts

Carrier Corporation/James Maguire
 Regeneration/Leo Kirk
 National Grid/ Richard O'Brien

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M&T Bank

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and those we serve! – October 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021

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 Mr. Laurence M. Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Smith
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 Mr. Mark Best
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 Ms. Kathleen Scutt
 Mr. & Mrs. James Stelter
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Tomeny
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Votra
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Walker
 Ms. Bonita Woodard

Christmas Tithing

Church of the Immaculate Conception
 Church of the Immaculate Conception –
 Giving Tree

Giving Tuesdays

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 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Goss
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete Ludden
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 Mr. & Mrs. David Prince
 Mr. Charles Russo
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 Mr. Glen Sutherland
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Facebook Campaigns

General Network for Good
 Anonymous

Mobile Meal Ministry

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Manno
 Network for Good/Anonymous

Caring Carnations

Reverend John Manno
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 Mr. & Mrs. James Roach
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schwanke

John Sheridan's Pickleball Tournament

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 Mr. Bret Colvin
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 Mr. Kurt Sibley
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 Mr. David Treichler

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 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Matrone

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 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Denmon
 Ms. Marlene Hawley
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Murphy
 Ms. Mary Jo Sweeny

Food Pantry

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Egerbrecht

Mobile Meal Ministry

CSJ Associates
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 Mrs. Evelyn Loveland
 Mrs. Ann Olson
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Schwanke

Thanksgiving Meal

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 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Salisbury
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tassini

Christmas Meal

Dr. & Mrs. David Ciccone
 Mr. & Mrs. Francis Cichy
 Mrs. Kathleen Davidson
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Figler
 Mrs. Rose Tout

In Memory of

Lester Austin
 Mr. & Mrs. Ivan Brower
 Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Ricciardi
Ted Bauer
 Ms. Caroline Brust
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Peg Ryan
 Ms. Ann Jamison

In Honor of

Jack Antonacci & family
 Mr. James Maguire
Sheila Austin's Birthday
 Reverend John Manno
Sheila Austin
 Reverend John Manno
Fr. Christopher Ballard
 Ms. Rose Heffernan
 Mrs. Linda Jackson
 Ms. Mary Elizabeth Kennedy
 Ms. Marie Marchione
Ted Bauer
 Mrs. Joan Hantke
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December 31, 2020
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Rene & Linda Delaney
 Ms. Sue MacDonald
Jerry & Elizabeth Hoffman
 Mr. Isaac Davis
Chet & Michele Kempston
 Reverend Carlo Stirpe
Tom & Dianne Licciardello
 Reverend Carlo Stirpe
Fr. John Manno's Birthday
 Ms. Sheila Austin
Rev. Joseph O'Connor
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Szlosek
Msgr. Robert Yeazel's Birthday
 Ms. Sheila Austin
Msgr. Robert Yeazel &
his miraculous recovery
 Ms. Carol Dwyer



Volunteer Spotlight: Carla Semmel

Carla Semmel is a parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Dewitt and has been volunteering at Emmaus Ministry for two and a half years. While she started with our Thursday morning breakfast group, starring as the Pancake Lady, she is involved in many more activities. One of those activities is cleaning all the kitchen equipment each week, which is no small task. Our

commercial-grade stoves and ovens are in operation six days per week, preparing hundreds of meals daily. Imagine what your oven and stove would look like if you were cooking for a mere 20-25 people daily, then multiply that by 20-30, and you will get the picture!

Also, Carla's duties include sandwich making on Mondays and meal distribution every Monday and Friday. Whatever task, Carla is all in. She loves volunteering at Emmaus because of "the joy you see on people's

faces. You feel like you are making a difference. Emmaus is my happy place." We are truly blessed to have Carla as one of our volunteers, helping to make Emmaus a happy place for all who come to our doors.



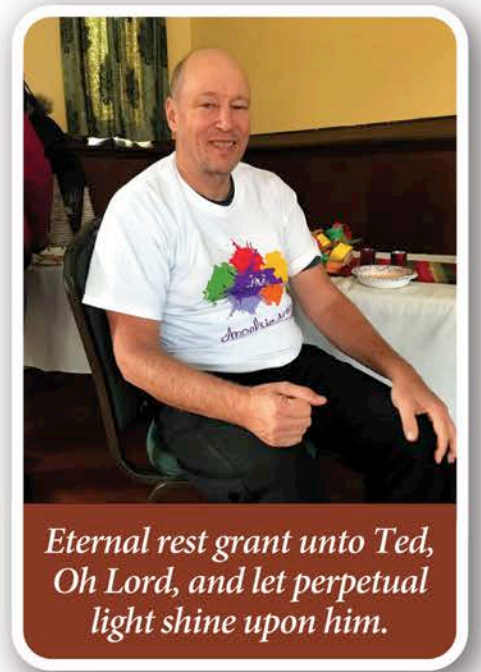
Passing of Our Friend, Ted Bauer

Emmaus Ministry lost a dear friend on December 18, 2020, as Ted Bauer went home to our Lord. Ted was a mainstay at Emmaus Ministry, joining us for nearly every meal served inside as well as for our meal distribution. He lived a short walk away from Emmaus in one of the Tiny Homes for Good, as a veteran, having served in the Army for ten years, rising to the rank of Sergeant.

Anyone who visited Emmaus would be greeted by Ted's loving smile. When we served meals inside, he always sat in the same chair, welcoming people as they entered the center. As Emmaus transitioned to front door meal distribution, Ted put out our

A-frame sign advertising the meal hours at the South Salina Street corner. At the end of the meal, he always brought it back, rain or shine. Ted often brought handpicked flowers during the warm weather months, especially sunflowers, presenting them to our volunteers.

Emmaus became Ted's family over the past few years of his life. While he may have been away from us during his last days at the hospital, we find great comfort knowing that he was with others in the hospital who were caring for him, spending time with him, and comforting him. Thank you, SUNY Upstate University Hospital, for your excellent care to our friend, Ted.



Eternal rest grant unto Ted, Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Family Activity Packs off the charts!

Twice each month, volunteers prepare themed takeaway packs for children and their parents to complete together. On an average some 20 family packs are distributed providing 58 children with activities to work on at home.





Caring Carnations Fundraiser Success!

On Saturday, February 13, we held our Valentine's Caring Carnations event at Emmaus Ministry's outreach center on East Glen Avenue. For the three weeks prior to the event, donors supported the event through a Facebook Fundraiser. Every \$10 donation, or increment of \$10, provided each of our guests with a beautiful red carnation along with their meal.

Over 120 flowers were distributed during meal service at our center and mobile meal van. Additionally, longtime volunteer Kirk Butler took three dozen red carnations to Christopher Community's Onondaga Senior Apartments for distribution to the lock downed residents. Each flower had a handwritten note, written by CBA students, and attached with Valentine's themed ribbon.

Our guests were quite surprised by the extra gift they received. One male guest exclaimed, using his term of

endearment for Sheila, "Thank you, Momma! You made my day!" A female guest responded with a loving smile that pushed her cheeks above her mask as she stated with great appreciation, "Aww, that is so sweet! That may be my only valentine."

The event raised over \$2,200 for Emmaus as nearly 50 of you provided a loving contribution. Special thanks to Saint Agnes Florist on South Avenue for donating half of the flowers and providing a generous discount on the cost of the remaining carnations.



St. Agnes Florists



Colleen & Owen prepare for distribution



Carnations for everyone.

Mobile Meal Ministry Takes Off!

Our Mobile Meal Ministry distributed its first meals on December 15, 2020, in Syracuse's Newell Street/Edmund Avenue area. Before starting the ministry, we sent postcards to the residents in that neighborhood, notifying them of the upcoming availability of hot meals. Several of the guests who arrived for the meal distribution mentioned the postcards and were quite thankful for the opportunity to receive nutritious meals for themselves and their family members.

Word of mouth has been our best advertising system in all aspects of our work, particularly for our mobile meals. One of our guests has spread the word via his social media accounts, encouraging others to visit the

Edmund Avenue distribution location. We offer hot meals three times per week and typically distributing 25-50 meals each time. New, appreciative faces arrive each week as we work to increase our offerings, reaching as

many people as we can. With your support, we look to expand our mobile meal offerings to other neighborhoods soon. **Opportunities to sponsor this and other ministries are available on page 8.**



Setting up for distribtuion



Getting to know our guests

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 Road to Emmaus Ministry of Syracuse, Inc.

 Or Twitter:
 Emmaus Ministry@Hope Mobile1

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MISSION STATEMENT
To perform volunteer outreach ministry including Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, for the purpose of providing unconditional love, hope, support, and the presence of the Catholic Church to the poor, hungry, isolated, and homeless of the city of Syracuse, New York.

Layout and design donated by Bob Raymonda, Artist on Call, Inc. 315.439.2881

Opportunities to help serve those in need...

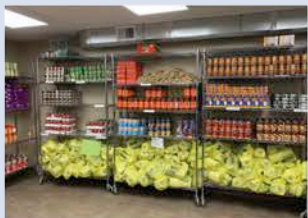
Become a Volunteer...

If you would like more information on how to become a volunteer at Emmaus Ministry assisting with:

- Meal preparation
- Meal services
- Food pantry
- Shopping
- Organizing
- Children's Activities
- Mobile Meal Ministry

Contact:

315-928-5191
info@emmausministry.org



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone #(s) _____
 Email _____

Please indicate amount of donation AND area of sponsorship:

_____ \$250	_____ Meal Service
_____ \$200	_____ Mobile Meal Ministry
_____ \$150	_____ Food Pantry
_____ \$100	_____ Children's Activities
_____ \$ 75	_____ Centro Bus Passes
_____ \$ Other amount	_____ Wherever needed

_____ **I want to be a monthly "Angel" donor @ \$ _____**

Please make checks payable to:
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PO BOX 15224 • SYRACUSE, NY 13215

Donations may also be made at:
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