

ROOM at the INN by Gerard Thomas Straub

The inspirational story of St. Francis Inn, a soup kitchen located in the Kensington area of Philadelphia...besides telling the heart-warming story of the inn, it subtly takes on the form of an Advent retreat whose message resounds throughout: the poor, broken and rejected are portals through which we can enter fully into the life of Christ.

DVD is 150 min. total but divided into 32 sections between 2- 10 minutes in length.
Each section can provide a springboard for reflection/discussion on Gospel values.

Section Directory (with approx. times of section)

We Are One 2:53

Though we are many we are one body in the eyes of God. This section of the film shows a man in the street keeping warm by a heat of a subway grate.

The Badlands 8:18

A section of Philadelphia known as the "bad lands" is a place of drugs, and death. This section of the film shows people whose lives are lived in fear and without hope. The movie director experiences the ministry of the Franciscan Friars. Here in this section, we are introduced to the St. Francis Inn.

Hunger Hurts 2:47

Hunger tears families apart emotionally, physically, and spiritually. 22% of Philly's population lives in poverty where there is hunger.

Love Served Daily 5:50

Many people rely on the St. Francis Inn for survival. Increasingly more women and children have been eating at the Inn. It is like eating with family; they joke around, and laugh with each other. At the Inn, people come in and are served. They are made to feel like guests. We hear testimonies of people who go to the Inn daily.

Ketchup Soup 7:06

We learn about the history of the St. Francis Inn. It was started by Franciscan Friars for New York. In this part of the film, we also hear testimonies from different volunteers at the Inn as well as people who visit the Inn for food. We hear how the St. Francis Inn has touched their lives.

Brother Xavier's Taxi Service 4:58

The Inn is about more than just food, it is about family. The workers at the Inn saw one of their guests suffering a great deal of pain so they insisted he be driven home. The director of the movie shows us an analogy with his own life. He says before he was rich and famous, something was missing, and that missing piece was God. He mentions that every Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ but every day at the Inn, Christ is truly being reborn. We also hear of a woman who went to the Inn looking for volunteer work to escape the law world she worked in and now works at the Inn full time and finds it "attractive".

A Lost Sheep 3:27

We hear the story of the parable of the lost sheep from one of the Friars. It is compared to the lost people who have strayed away and the people at the Inn go out and look for them.

An Urban Nightmare 9:47

We get up close and personal with a homeless veteran who shows us the terrible living conditions that not only he, but many others are living in when the shelters have no more room to offer.

The Last Stop 16:16

The Last Stop is a place at the Inn that helps those who abuse drugs and alcohol. In this section of the film, we hear testimonies of how the Inn has saved so many people lives.

Worse in Daylight 4:31

Gerard, the movie director explains how these people are human just like you and I and they really need our help to survive.

No Where in Wanda 2:31

Wanda who has been homeless for 6 months is trying to get her life back on track. She is currently at the Last Stop for drug abuse but is looking for a new place. She demonstrates perseverance and patience because a lot of shelters are only for men but Wanda is not giving up.

Obstructing the Highway 5:15

In this section of the film, one of the sisters who work at the women's center gives us insight to what goes on. They help women who feel like they have lost their pride and dignity and help them to get back on their feet again.

A Road Out 3:46

A young woman shares her personal story with how she was close to death but got some help and not volunteers to be an example for others who are in her shoes.

Can You Help Me Father 3:26

A woman who comes to the Inn many times depends on Father Michael for help and also financial assistance. She has been clean of drugs and alcohol for 7 years and at night when her medicine does not work she turns to God for Guidance through her Bible.

Alone On a Corner 0:40

A man standing alone represents the loneliness we all feel at times. But with Christ we have hope and joy and can overcome that loneliness.

Warm Gestures 3:47

Whether you are a 10 year old or a big corporation, we all have to do our part in helping those less fortunate. Kevin, who is only 10, used his own money he saved up to buy blankets for the homeless instead of video games for himself.

The Common Good 4:18

The Bishop of Detroit speaks about how we have to be one with the poor. Just like at the St. Francis Inn, the volunteers are one with the poor when they socialize and serve them. There is a community within the community and you feel such hope and joy.

The Inn Ruined My Life 3:04

Young adults and teens tell how Volunteering at the Inn has changed their lives.

Living Saints 1:48

The director talks about how he once rejected Christianity because the message of Christ was so distorted. Guilty of ignoring spiritual values Christ taught. No one said following Christ was easy. The Lord became flesh among the poor what better place to be waiting for the Lord than amongst the poor.

A Moving Experience 2:51

Throwing away furniture given with love and received with a glad heart becomes a moving experience for both giver and receiver. A simple act done for others, we are demonstrating Christ washing his disciple's feet. Becoming friends with the little boy in this section of the film may be keeping him out of trouble.

Portals to God 1:32

Many people think the homeless are social annoyances, but Jesus said that the poor are portals to God. The poor are a profound image of God's grace. We are blinded by our materialism to see the needs of the poor.

Electric Results 3:30

The Inn over the years does not see drastic results from their work, but one story we hear about is a man who was homeless about 23 years ago and frequently visited the Inn, is now making a lot of money and is repaying the Inn back by doing their electric for free. He tells how he has never forgotten the Inn and all they have done for him.

A Filthy System 5:16

We hear from several nurses who volunteer their services at the Catholic Worker Free Clinic which is for the poor and those who do not have insurance. We hear how the clinic has lifted their spirits and they find true joy in living the Gospel for the homeless.

The Qur'an and Compassion 1:24

Compassion is at the core of all faiths. A woman from the transitional housing for women and children is doing a giving activity at the Inn. She tells us how the Qur'an teaches them to be compassionate to not only our brothers and sisters, but also those who are less fortunate. This Muslim woman is a perfect example of how we have to show compassion to all faiths.

Meals on Wheels 10:27

Father Michael delivers food to the families who cannot make it to the Inn. He shows us two different families living in terrible housing conditions.

May They Rest in Peace 3:01

The director shares three different stories of people who frequently visited the Inn due to their living conditions and being ill.

Through These Eyes 1:06

"Every face you encounter in life is a face of the faceless one". We are the face of God, bits of tile that is the divine face. Through these eyes the divine presence is looking at us.

An Icon of Christ 2:49

The director of the movie teaches how St. Francis of Assisi was one with the poor and did not see them as homeless but as children of God.

See How They Love Each Other 4:44

A touching song about how the poor are just like you and I. And even through their suffering and pain they find hope and also joy. The song also has the messages of how people have to be in unity as one.

Empty Hands 10:10

The director talks about how the St. Francis Inn has inspired him as well as the poor that he came into contact with. He explains the excessive numbers of all the people who are homeless, have leprosy, and live off of less than \$1 a day. We have to love one another because we are all brothers and sisters.