



*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone.*

Romans 12:18

Pieces of Us

By Jessica Sauer

The other day my family and I went out to dinner. I couldn't help but overhear the couple at the next table as they berated their waiter for serving them cold food and bringing them "damaged" pieces of pie. Listening to them, their complaints almost seemed comical, and yet our waiter not only tolerated their complaints but complied with all of their wishes. At the end of the meal, the busboy discovered that in addition to taking their meals, they had also taken the saltshaker from the table. At a time when others may have gotten frustrated with their behavior, our waiter remained the picture of patience.

I have a preschooler who loves to "help" Mommy clean the house and do the dishes. Her help consists of taking

the dishes out of the dishwasher just as fast as I can put them in, pushing her play broom through my pile of dirt just as I have finally managed to sweep the entire floor, and refolding my piles of freshly folded laundry. Just when I feel frustrated with her "help" and ready to push her away, she manages to do something cute and make me laugh. Suddenly, the mood is lightened and we go back to cleaning the house together.

Aren't we grateful for people who have the ability to lighten our mood simply by being cheerful in their daily activities? I like to think we give pieces of ourselves away with each contact we have with others. I don't think the older couple at the table next to ours realized that they were sharing themselves with our waiter, nor do I think he realized he was giving them a piece of himself with the patience he showed them.

We have a God who consciously gives a piece of Himself. God gave a piece of Himself in Jesus Christ when He took on human flesh. God gives a piece of Himself when we come together as a community of believers around the Lord's Supper and partake of His Body and His Blood. The beauty of God's conscious giving of a piece of Himself is that it is everlasting — a piece ... and a peace ... that passes all understanding.

Share a piece of His love and His loving peace with those He places in your path.

Jessica is a past YWR [Tampa 2005], a zone president, and an advisor to a Friends Into Serving Him® group that meets at Lutheran Church and School of Our Saviour, Bronx, New York, where her husband, Paul, is the pastor. Formerly a Lutheran teacher, she is a stay-at-home mother to daughters Katie and Rosie.