



DIOCESE OF WHEELING – CHARLESTON

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POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 5, 2014

Mr. and Mrs. Charley Monaghan
The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents
194 Bishops Forest Drive
Waltham, MA 02452

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Monaghan:

Please accept my sincere thanks for bringing your Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

I have heard wonderful comments about the first retreat, held in October, 2013, and am grateful to know that you will be conducting another retreat in the Diocese in June of this year. Among the most challenging pastoral work that the Church does is the ministry to those who are grieving, and the grief of parents for a deceased child can be enduring and, at times, spiritually and emotionally disabling. Your retreat ministry helps parents to experience a reassuring and comforting moment in which they can rediscover and maintain the real and certain hope that they will see their children again, and so restores faith in Christ and His Resurrection.

I am grateful for the organization and planning which you have put into this retreat ministry and for your willingness to work so closely with diocesan personnel, as well as making use of diocesan priests as chaplains for the weekend. In this way, as well as in the sharing of your own story of grief and hope, the retreat is a very personal experience which engages the retreatants, making it all the more effective.

I know that the participants from this fall's retreat experienced a moment of grace and have been greatly comforted by your ministry. I hope that your wonderful ministry will reach other grieving parents, both within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and in other dioceses.

Entrusting you to the care of Our Lady, Help of Christians, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael J. Bransfield
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston