



Retreats

Spiritual help for grieving parents

SPECIAL TO THE PILOT

“The loss of a son or daughter is like time stopping altogether; it opens a chasm that swallows both past and future... Death touches us and when it is a child’s, it touches us profoundly. The whole family is left paralyzed.”

— Pope Francis, June 12, 2015

The death of a child — of any age, by any cause — rocks a parent’s world irrevocably and forever. Nothing is ever the same again. Friends and family come and go; seasons change; the rest of the world moves on. But the hole in the heart of the parent whose child has died will never be filled on this earth.

However, the rich teachings of our Catholic faith regarding the promise of eternal life and certain joy in the morning do bring peace and comfort to grieving parents. Many parents say this is the only way they have found any consolation at all.

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents, whose spiritual home is at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston, seeks to serve the spiritual needs of these parents, reminding them over and over again that life has changed, not ended.

That their children are very much alive and present. And that they will definitely see their children again someday.

Since 2009, the Emmaus Ministry has been offering One-Hour, One-Day, and Weekend Spiritual Retreats for parents whose children have died, no matter how long ago or by what cause. More than 200 parents from 15 states



Photo courtesy/Emmaus Ministry

have benefited from these retreats multiple times.

Recently the Emmaus Ministry has become Partners in Ministry with the Archdiocese of Boston. It is hoped that spiritual retreats for grieving parents will be offered in each of the Archdiocese’s five regions.

During Lent, the ministry will be offering a One-Day Retreat on Feb. 13 and two Brown Bag Lunch Retreats on Feb. 23 and March 14. All events will be offered at St. Anthony Shrine, 100 Arch Street in Downtown Crossing, Boston. See www.emfgp.org for registration information.

One-Day Retreat. Feb. 13, 2016 from 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Grieving parents who come to this retreat will be giving themselves the gift of getting away for an en-


tire day to focus on their own spiritual journeys. Sharing as much or as little as they’d like, they will find peace and comfort in a safe and loving place, at least for a time. And they will be able to meet other grieving parents who understand their pain. Dress is casual and weekend parking nearby is only \$9/day. Cost for three meals and all retreat materials is \$25/person; \$40/couple.

How Did I Survive This Horrific Tragedy? Brown Bag Lunch Retreat Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016 from 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Bring your lunch and we will provide beverages. Ken Lambert, father of Kaleigh, Shane, Sheadon, and Kolten, will share his spiritual jour-

ney as a parent whose two children have died. Eight years ago, Ken’s twin sister-in-law suffered a psychotic episode and carried his beautiful little son and daughter on her hips into oncoming cars on Interstate 495, in Lowell. All three died immediately. Ken will give an inspiring talk about how he survived this life-changing and highly publicized tragedy — and the role of his Catholic faith in his life then and now. No cost.

Where Is My Beautiful Child Now? Brown Bag Lunch Retreat Monday, March 14, 2016 from 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Bring your lunch and we will provide beverages. Father Jurgen Liiias, Pastor of St. Gregory Ordinarate, Stoneham, is a former Anglican priest recently ordained as a Catholic priest, who is actually married and has children. He will seek to answer questions that grieving parents grapple with every day... *Why did God let my child die? Why did God do this to me? Where is God in my pain? Where is my beautiful child right now? How do I get my child back?* Hear Father Jurgen’s impassioned, fervent proclamation that heaven really is for real. No cost.

For more information about the ministry or to register for any of these programs, call Diane, Mother of Paul, at 617-542-8057 or see www.emfgp.org.




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UPCOMING RETREATS



February 12-14: Half the Sky—A Woman’s Retreat
February 19-21: Adult Christianity
March 4-6: Lent: A Time to Cultivate One’s Soul
March 24-27: Easter Triduum Retreat
April 8-10: Listening to Our Souls by Exploring Our Creativity
April 22-24: Daily Life as Spiritual Practice (Part I)



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