

## What Grieving Parents Have Said About Emmaus Ministry Retreats...

*"It felt like we were all part of a giant heart beating as one."*

*"The weekend we spent with you was life transforming. It had a profound effect and helped us heal as a couple."*

*"We came away emotionally and physically exhausted, but with a renewed faith that our children are truly alive and still with us. We came away with Hope."*

*"This was a Godsend to us. We have been so isolated in our grief and have not had any help with the spirituality of grieving... we are so grateful for this ministry."*

### From an Archdiocesan Pastoral Associate...

*"The Emmaus Ministry manifests Christ's healing love to grieving parents through the compassionate accompaniment of other grieving parents who share their profound sorrow and walk with them on a journey of Hope in the promise of the Resurrection."*

*"Beginning to end, our experience with the Emmaus Retreat has been one of a completely professional, well organized, and beautifully presented day of spiritual enrichment and companionship."*

*- Patrice Fitzpatrick, St. Patrick Parish, Stoneham, MA*

### And from an Emmaus Ministry priest...

*"It is a sacred privilege to be a part of the good and love that the team brings to hurting and grieving parents. In many cases, this unique ministry is the first to actually understand the depth of the loss of these parents."*

*- Fr. Eric Carpine, OFM*

## Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents



### Office of Chaplaincy Programs Archdiocese of Boston

#### *Serving the Spiritual Needs of Catholic Grieving Parents in the Archdiocese of Boston*

Offering One-Hour, One-Day, and Weekend Spiritual Retreats for grieving parents whose children of any age have died by any cause—no matter how long ago, and no matter how close you feel to God

For more information on this powerful ministry—and a listing of dates and locations of upcoming retreats locally in the Archdiocese of Boston, see [www.rcab.org](http://www.rcab.org) or [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org) or call 617-542-8057.

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## The Emmaus Ministry FOR GRIEVING PARENTS



### Serving the Spiritual Needs of Catholic Grieving Parents



### Office of Chaplaincy Programs Archdiocese of Boston



*The Emmaus Ministry  
for Grieving Parents  
Office of Chaplaincy Programs  
Archdiocese of Boston*

Of all the pains that life can hand us, arguably the most searing is the death of a child. A parent's world irrevocably and horrifically changes forever. As Jesus joined his distraught disciples on the road to Emmaus after his crucifixion, we ask him to join each of us in this ministry as we struggle through this horrendous journey of grief every day.

To meet the spiritual needs of Catholic parents whose children of *any* age have died by *any* cause—no matter how long ago—the Office of Chaplaincy Programs now offers the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents. A unique, faith-based program providing spiritual retreats *for* grieving parents offered *by* grieving parents, the Emmaus Ministry offers a safe place where you can find peace, comfort, and hope—at least for a time.

Join us in a warm and loving environment with others who know somewhat of your pain. Emmaus Ministry Catholic retreats are now being offered in *your* region of the Archdiocese of Boston.

See [www.rcab.org](http://www.rcab.org) or [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org) for more information.

*“Blest are you who weep  
and mourn, for one day you  
will laugh.”*

### **One-Day Retreats**

In each of the Archdiocese's five regions, at least one One-Day Retreat is offered each year. Give yourself the opportunity to get away from everyday life and focus on your own individual spiritual journey. Seek answers to questions like, *“Where is God in my pain?” “Where is my child right now?” “When will I see my child again?” “What does the Catholic Church teach about eternal life?”*

### **Weekend Retreats**

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents currently offers one weekend retreat per year in the Archdiocese of Boston—usually the first weekend of November in Duxbury, MA. From Friday evening until Sunday lunch, in a beautiful, relaxed setting, you can develop your new relationship with your child and focus on where you are with God in your spiritual grief journey.

### **One-Hour Retreats**

Join other grieving parents for a Lectio Divina Scripture reading and coffee social. Offered monthly at various locations.

For more information  
on this powerful ministry and its upcoming  
schedule, see [www.rcab.org](http://www.rcab.org) or [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org).  
Or call Diane or Charley, Paul's parents, at 617-542-8057  
Or email [diane@emfgp.org](mailto:diane@emfgp.org)

Note: Preregistration for all One-Day and Weekend retreats is necessary, as space is often limited.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who are these retreats for?**

Any parent of any religion whose child of any age has died by any cause—no matter how long ago, and no matter how close you feel to God right now. All are welcome.

### **What happens at retreats?**

You give yourself the gift of getting away and focusing on your own, personal spiritual journey. Included are individual and group sessions; Catholic liturgies; the Mass; Reconciliation; quiet reflection; and prayer services. You are invited to share as little or as much as you like. No one is forced to talk; many people participate by listening.

### **Who coordinates these retreats?**

Members of the Retreat Team include Emmaus Parent Companions who are grieving parents who have participated in previous retreats. Typically, also on the team are parish committee members and a spiritual leader, such as a priest, deacon, pastoral associate, and/or spiritual director.

### **How do I know if these retreats are right for me?**

If a spiritual retreat and a faith-based, Catholic ministry for grieving parents is what you have been looking for, you are probably being called by the Holy Spirit to participate in one of these retreats.

### **How do I find out where and when these retreats are offered?**

See [www.rcab.org](http://www.rcab.org) or [www.emfgp.org](http://www.emfgp.org) for the latest schedule—and more information on the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents.