



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

May 30, 2017
Month of Our Lady

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

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Monaghan:

It is with great joy and gratitude that I write to express my appreciation to you for bringing the *Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents* to the Archdiocese of New York. It was back in September 2016 when I first became aware of the good work you have been doing around the country. I am pleased that with your guidance and efforts, and working closely with our Family Life † Respect Life Office, we have been able to sponsor three *Emmaus Ministry Retreats* here in the Archdiocese of New York.

Earlier this year I received a personal note of admiration from a grieving parent who participated in one of your retreats hosted at Saint Joseph's Seminary. I have also seen the many additional and overwhelmingly positive responses from the participants who attended all three of the retreats you sponsored here in the archdiocese. The peace, healing and spiritual renewal that the parents experienced is such a beautiful and necessary grace for parents who are mourning the loss of a child. Furthermore, this could not have happened without your willingness to help others through sharing your own personal journey of grief.

Just as Jesus joined his distressed disciples on the road to Emmaus after his crucifixion, He joins us too in our difficult journeys from grief to healing peace. I applaud you for all you are doing to bring this ministry to grieving parents. As you restore these parents' faith in Christ's Resurrection, may they, like Jesus' disciples, continue to find comfort and healing graces when they return to their own parish communities.

Mr. and Mrs. Monaghan, I am grateful for your desire to establish your program within the archdiocese, and I encourage you to continue working with our Family Life † Respect Life Office to continue this good and fruitful work. May the Lord continue to bless you both.

With prayerful best wishes to you, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York