



## **Emmaus Crosses the Mississippi and the Atlantic!**



It seems unbelievable considering its humble beginnings, but the Emmaus Ministry is now offering retreats in Phoenix, AZ and County Kerry, Ireland.

During our first five years, we offered only two weekend retreats a year in downtown Boston and we thought that was a lot!

Because of so many requests and the overwhelming need, we are now supporting grieving parents in offering the ministry in six dioceses (Archdioceses of New York and Boston; Dioceses of Albany, NY; Richmond, VA; Wheeling-Charleston, WV; and Phoenix, AZ), as well as parishes in RI, CT, and NH.

Our two retreats in the Diocese of Phoenix, AZ amazingly attracted grieving parents from six states (CA, CO MN. TX, OR, and MN), in addition to AZ! It was awe-inspiring for the ministry to finally cross the Mississippi and reach out to so many parents from such diverse locations. Obviously, there is a huge need. We continue to hear that nothing quite like it (a focus on the spirituality of the grieving process for parents) exists anywhere else.

Also... One of our Moms, who has participated in many Emmaus retreats and has led several in her home parish, feels called to bring the ministry to her native Ireland. In 2017 she coordinated a beautiful retreat for 16 grieving parents at Ardfert Centre in County Kerry, with a second one scheduled for September of this year. The ministry is going global. Astounding.

During 2018, there were 27 Emmaus Ministry retreats in seven states and two countries serving hundreds of grieving parents. Currently, we are talking with people in FL, NC, and LA to possibly introduce the ministry in those states. The Holy Spirit is working overtime!