



*Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents
Whose Children of Any Age Have Died by Any Cause,
No Matter How Long Ago*

**Your Emmaus Ministry
Remote Retreat Guide
April 17, 2021
9:30am ET
(or a convenient time for you)**



JESUS APPEARS TO HIS MOTHER FIRST

“At the Annunciation, Mary submitted her will by faith to the word of God.

At the Resurrection, her faith was rewarded by actually seeing and speaking with her glorified Son.

At the Annunciation, Mary represented the human race still needing to be redeemed.

At the Resurrection, she represented the human race already redeemed.”

--Fr. John Hardon

Preparation:

Ahead of time, we recommend you find a quiet place in your home where you can immerse yourself in this retreat. Have your child's Emmaus Memorial Candle (or other candle) available along with a lighter or matches.

Take several deep breaths to cleanse your thoughts and open yourself to wherever the Holy Spirit is calling you today several minutes before the retreat is scheduled to begin.

At 9:30am ET open your email and join other fellow Emmaus Parent Companions in getting away from the rest of the world, at least for a time, to focus on God and on your precious child.

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER (Light your candle)

We begin... In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen

Lord, you are the Light of the World. *Help us feel your presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the gift of our children. *Help us feel their presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the hope of eternal life. *Help us confirm that hope in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us love. *Help us to know that, as much as we love our children, you love them even more.*

We ask you this through Christ, Our Lord
Amen.

OPENING SONG: [Still Her Little Child](#) by Ray Boltz
When she held his broken body, he was still her little child.

PRAYER OF THOSE MAKING A RETREAT

Loving Spirit of Wisdom,
Guide my thoughts and my memories.

In the light of your love,
May I see what is important for me to remember,
What is important for me to hold to my heart,
And what I need to simply let go of in peace.

I trust you to be my guide,
Even when the path seems unclear to me.

We pray this in the name of Your Son, the Healer,
Our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. John 19:25-27

When human perversity had reached its height and had brought about the death of our Lord, when the Shepherd was smitten and the entire flock of apostles and faithful were dispersed, Jesus Christ offered hope, salvation, and his Mother: "Here is your mother." (Jn 19:26)

After the Ascension, the Apostles returned to the Upper Room to await the coming of the Paraclete, as we read in Acts 1:13-14:

When they entered the city they went to the upper room where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these devoted

themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Mary joins the Apostles in the Cenacle. She provides a model of prayer, and encourages the Apostles to wait and pray for the Holy Spirit and pray for the Holy Spirit. She models how to be active in preparing for the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION #1: [The Appearance of the Risen Christ to His Mother, Mary](#) by Fr. Earl Fernandes, S.T.D.

Who would be more deserving than Mary to first receive the joyful news of the Resurrection?



Take a moment to *selah*... pause... breathe... Reflect on what you have received from Reflection #1. Clear your mind before focusing on Reflection #2.

REFLECTION #2: [Living the Resurrection - Jesus Appears to His Mother](#)

by Sarah Otto, Ignatius House Retreat Center

We are invited to share in the joy of Jesus with Mary.

PRAYER

REGINA CAELI

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.

For He, whom thou was worthy to bear. Alleluia.

Has risen as He said. Alleluia.

Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray

O God, Who by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has been pleased to give joy to the whole world, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life.

Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: [Regina Caeli](#) by Christian Catholic Media

O, Queen of Heaven, by joyful, for He whom you have humbly borne for us has risen.

CLOSING BLESSING

Let us end our time of retreat...united with Brother John Maganzini, OFM and

the Franciscan Friars at Saint Anthony Shrine in Boston, MA, by blessing one another.

Bow your head, raise your right hand as, together, we pray,

Mary, when the Angel Gabriel surprised you, you listened to his words with an attentive heart. You said “yes” to God’s invitation...

May we, too, have listening hearts.

May we, too, have hearts that seek to hear the voice of God in every detail of our lives.

May we, too, have hearts ready to respond to the needs of those around us.

May we, too, treasure God’s word in our hearts and act on it every day.

We pray this as we bless each other in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

[After His Resurrection, Jesus Appeared First to His Mother Mary, Say the Saints](#) by Joseph Pronechen

If a son were overseas, and his mother had understood that he had died, and he nevertheless healthy returned and would visit first other friends, and only last come to his mother, this would not be a good son, nor would he seem to have honored his mother. But Jesus, being the perfect son, would never have done that.

[Jesus Appears to His Mother](#)

by Maria Valtorta

An imaginative prayer of what happened when Jesus appeared to his mother after his Resurrection.



PLEASE NOTE:

We email the Saturday Morning Remote Retreat Guides by 9pm every Friday night. If you don't receive yours, please email us at info@emfgp.org asap and we will resend it.



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