



*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
July 3 , 2021
9:30am EDT**



LET FREEDOM RING!

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 EDT (our normal retreat beginning time) 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: [This is Our Freedom](#) by Lifeway Worship
*This is our freedom. This is our life. This is our freedom. This is our cost. The blood
he shed on the cross.*

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

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples.

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him
were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this?
What kind of wisdom has been given him?
What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!

Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary,
and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here
with us?"
And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them,
"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and
in his own house."

So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there,
apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

REFLECTION #1: [What True Freedom Looks Like](#) by Fr. Mark Mary

*As human beings created in the image and likeness of God, we all have free will. We
have a freedom available to us that is stronger than whatever is happening in our
lives.*



Take a moment to pause... breathe... savor what you have received from the Reflection #1.

Clear your mind before focusing on Reflection #2.

REFLECTION #2: [Freedom and the Cross of Life](#) by Fr. William Nicholas.
We as Americans cherish Freedom and Liberty, and as Christians, celebrate Christ as the source of all Freedom.

PRAYER

Prayer For Our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life,
We entrust the United States of America to Your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.
You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders.

Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, Grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death."

Lead us into a new millennium of life.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

CLOSING SONG: [God Bless America](#) by Kate Smith
Stand beside us and guide us. Through the night with a light from above.

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.

Raise your right hand and, together, let us give this blessing

Father of all nations and ages,

May we recognize our place among the family of all nations.

May we give thanks for what has been achieved.

May we ask for your help for the work that still remains.

May you empower us to be one nation, called from many peoples.

May our country now and forever be as one.

May all of us, as Americans this day, share in your bountiful blessings.

We ask of you 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...

[**Patriotism and
Catholicism**](#) by Saint
Agnes Parish
in West Chester, PA
*What do we mean when we
say, "God bless America"?*

- [**Bishop Barron on Religious Liberty**](#) by Bishop Robert Barron
*An attack on religious liberty is an attack on THE most fundamental human
right.*

SATURDAY MORNING RETREATS
ENDING JULY 31, 2021.
[SEE HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION.](#)

[COMING SOON!](#)

**[IN-PERSON
EMMAUS
MINISTRY
RETREATS](#)**



**You will receive a new email next Friday.
Please join your fellow
Emmaus Parent Companions
again next Saturday at 9:30am EDT**

**Until then, may God bless you and keep you.
Sending many warm, virtual hugs**

For past Remote Retreats, see [here](#).



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