



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

"For it is in consoling that we are consoled."

Received from Anne Marie Dodge in January, 2022:

Hi Diane,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Emmaus Ministry Parent Compassion Outreach Project. This is something I am very passionate about and has been a priority for me.

Chris' death had such a devastating impact on my life and consequently I am acutely aware of what newly bereaved parents are facing. I found myself wanting to do whatever I could to reach out to them to provide whatever measure of comfort I could. To let them know that there are others out there who care about their loss and their child and they are not alone.

Even before I began sending the cards to parents I had started reaching out to parents who lost a child when I became aware of the situation locally.

Ever since Chris died we have sought ways to honor his memory. You know how important it is for us that our children not be forgotten. This ministry has allowed me to do just that. By sending this card to the new bereaved parents, they are made aware that there is something that is available to them to help deal with their pain if they so desire. They may not avail themselves of the retreats right away but sometime in the future they may decide to seek out more information through the website.

The parents may not tell us how much the contact meant to them, but I can't help but believe that it is very welcomed and comforting for them to know that there are others who share in their sorrow. The Emmaus Retreats really were a lifeline for Dan and myself in helping us face our feelings about what happened and especially about our relationship with God going forward.

In addition, at the time when I am writing out the card with a personal note, I am afforded the opportunity to pray for the child and for the parents and family. Then I include them in my prayers as I pray for all the children included in the monthly Emmaus Ministry Remembrance Project.

Please feel free to use any of my comments. I am so honored to be a small part of this ministry. Thank you again for all that you and Charlie do for all of us. Many blessings for you and your family as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and our world again and we remember our precious children at Christmas.

Blessings,

Anne Marie

