



August 25, 2022

Most Reverend John P. Dolan
Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix
400 East Monroe Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Dear Bishop Dolan:

Congratulations! May you find true peace, happiness, and renewed hope in your new role as Shepherd of the people of the Diocese of Phoenix. Please know you are in our prayers, especially in your new endeavor.

In the middle of the pandemic in 2021, I wrote to tell you how much I appreciated your work on *“When a Loved One Dies by Suicide.”* It is a beautiful book that brings immense comfort—and the Catholic perspective—to those of us who have lost a loved one to suicide (in my case, my beautiful son, Paul).

I told you of how the Holy Spirit called my husband and I to spiritually minister to all grieving parents whose precious children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago. For the past 14 years we have offered the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents through Half-Hour, One-Hour, One-Day, and Weekend Virtual and In-Person Spiritual Retreats.

I invited you to work with us to bring the Emmaus Ministry to San Diego. You graciously and positively agreed (see the attached note from you) saying we should explore how the Emmaus Ministry could support your diocesan efforts for grieving parents and suicide support.

Fast forward... You now have a new flock in Phoenix! I am writing to give you the good news that we already have established the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents in Scottsdale at The Casa Franciscan Renewal Center! However, we have been trying for years to expand it to the entire diocese, but progress has been slow. Can we talk with you on a way to do this?

Marianne Gouveia and Greg Eckerman, Eric’s Mother and Step-Father, are our Emmaus Ministry Regional Directors in Arizona. Would it be possible for you to meet with them anytime at your convenience? Marianne and Greg lost their son, Eric, to suicide in 2016. They are eager to minister to the many grieving parents all over your diocese, who desperately need it and could deeply benefit from it. In so many ways, the Emmaus Ministry is a good way of evangelizing.

Alternatively, Marianne and Greg will be participating in (and offering information) at your upcoming Sunday, September 4 *Mass of Remembrance for People Who Have Died by Suicide*. How beautiful. Your brother is very proud, I am sure. Would you be able to meet Marianne and Greg after this Mass and/or set up a time to talk?

Again, thank you, Bishop Dolan. We are very proud of you! Please let us know what you think about this proposal. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Take care.

With humble gratitude for your consideration,

Diane Monaghan, Paul’s Mother

THE EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

Serving the Spiritual Needs of Parents Whose Children of Any Age, Who Have Died by Any Cause, No Matter How Long Ago
c/o 194 Bishops Forest Drive, Waltham, MA 02452 • www.emfgp.org • info@emfgp.org • 800-919-9332

3/26/21 DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

Dear Diane,

Please excuse my late reply to your letter in response to our book on "When A LOVED ONE DIES BY SUICIDE."



I appreciate the work you are doing in Emmaus Ministry as a response to the love you still have for your Sam, Paul.

Please be assured of my prayers and of my interest in your work. I have forwarded your letter to Deacon Ed Shoener, (Co-Author) and President of the Alliance for Catholic Mental

Health Ministry.

After Easter, I may reach out to you to see how we might have Emmaus touch base with our own diocesan efforts in San Diego.

Blessings to you this Holy Week and throughout the Season of Easter!

Bishop John Dolan