

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER, 2024: PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE DIED

"We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit."

--Pope Francis, November, 2024

(For video and reflection, [see here](#))



"What can we say to parents who have lost a child? How can we console them? There are no words,"

—Pope Francis, October 31, 2024

"I have always been struck by the question: 'Why do children suffer? Why do children die? It becomes a threat that shatters every dream, every promise. It severs every relationship and interrupts every journey. (But) there is a powerful instinct within us which tells us that our lives do not end with death.'" —Pope Francis, November 27, 2013

"For parents, surviving their own children is particularly heartbreaking; it contradicts the fundamental nature of the very relationships that give meaning to the past

and future. The loss of a son or daughter is like time stopping altogether. It opens a chasm that swallows both past and future. Death touches us. When it is a child's, it touches us profoundly. The whole family is left paralyzed and speechless" --Pope Francis, June 17, 2015

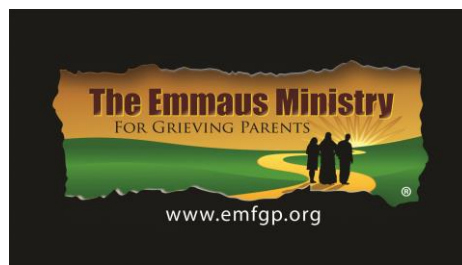
"After Jesus brought the young man, the only son of a widow, back to life (Luke 7:11-15), 'Jesus gave him back to his mother.' And this is our hope! All of our loved ones who are gone, the Lord will give them back to us and we will be together again." —Pope Francis June, 17, 2015

'The bitterest tears...are of those who have seen a loved one violently torn from them; the tears of grandparents, mothers and fathers; eyes that keep staring at the sunset and find it hard to see the dawn of a new day.'

- Pope Francis, May 19, 2016

"Anyone familiar with the grief of a mother who has lost a child knows the power of this image: In response to Rachel's tears, God offers a word of consolation by promising new life." --Pope Francis, January 4, 2017





POPE FRANCIS and THE EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis has a special place in his heart for parents whose children have died, as evidenced by his many comments over the past 11 years. He understands our pain and has compassionately reached out to offer peace and comfort.

In his November, 2024 Prayer Request for Grieving Parents, Pope Francis noted two ministries that support grieving parents: the Nain Group and Talitha Kum Association of Vicenza. However, he did not mention the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents, based in the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT and the Archdiocese of Boston, MA, USA.

THE EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents has been serving the *spiritual* needs of grieving parents whose children of any age, who have died by any cause, no matter how long ago since 2009. It focuses on the promise of eternal life and walking with parents in their spiritual journeys after the death of their children.

The Emmaus Ministry has offered hundreds of spiritual retreats based on Catholic teachings and has served thousands of parents. It has partnered with 16 dioceses to bring this powerful ministry to grieving parents all over the USA. It is supported by the [USCCB](http://USCCB.org).

PLEASE HELP!

In his November, 2024 Prayer Intention statement, Pope Francis encourages grieving parents to “*find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.*” The Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents has been offering this support, peace, and consolation for the past 15 years. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, parents often say that it has transformed their lives, saved their marriages, and brought them back to the Church.

How Can You Help Us...

- (1) Thank Pope Francis for his prayer intention this month?**
- (2) Make him aware of the [Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents](http://www.emfgp.org)?**

We respectfully ask him to express his support to USCCB Bishops, so that they can help spread the good news of this powerful ministry. On behalf of all of the grieving parents you will serve, we implore you to do whatever you can. Please let us know if we can help in any way. Call 617-838-5755 or email diane@emfgp.org to discuss.

