

Walk to Emmaus A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

The Gospel of St. Luke relates the story of the risen Christ appearing to two who were going along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Two friends were walking together sharing their hearts deepest concerns. The risen Christ joined them and explained the scriptures as they walked, how it was ordained that Christ should suffer and so enter his glory. This experience on the road was a heart-warming experience as the risen Christ walked and talked with them. The illuminating climax of the experience was when Christ took bread and said the blessing, then broke it and gave it to them. The two had their eyes opened and they recognized him as the risen Christ and they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the others (Luke 24: 13-35)

WHAT IS THE WALK TO EMMAUS?

The above story provides the image of Emmaus, an Upper Room program that calls forth and renews Christian discipleship. Like its predecessor, Cursillo de Cristiandad (Spanish for "short course in Christianity"), the Walk to Emmaus is a three-day experience, which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them their families, congregations, and the world in which they live. Emmaus is a combined effort of laity and clergy toward the renewal of the church.

HISTORY OF EMMAUS.

Originating in Spain in the late 1940's, Cursillo moved to America in the late 1950's. It was primarily a Roman Catholic movement until the 1970's. As Catholic centers started accepting applications from Protestants, efforts began among some groups to make the Cursillo experience available to all Protestants. In the late 1970's, The Upper Room (a unit of the Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church) formed the Upper Room Cursillo Community in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1981, by mutual agreement between the National Secretariat of the Roman Catholic Cursillo movement and The Upper Room, The name of the Nashville Protestant community was changed to Emmaus. The Emmaus movement is ecumenical.

WHAT HAPPENS AT EMMAUS?

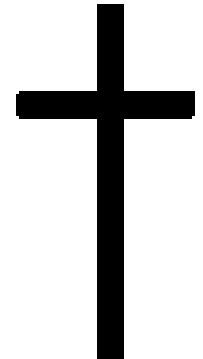
At Emmaus you will spend three busy but very enjoyable days, usually at a retreat center. You will live and study together in singing, prayer, worship, and discussion. Discussion centers around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, and how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and expresses itself in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, and how you can live in the life of grace, bringing grace to others. You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and to begin to understand more fully the presence of Christ in his body of believers. You will experience God's grace personally through the prayers and acts of service of a living support community.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER EMMAUS?

One of the primary strengths of Emmaus is the follow-up. Your walk lasts only three days, but you are invited to build on it for the rest of your life. Those who attend a " Walk to Emmaus" are encouraged to do two things following their Walk:

1. Expand their own spiritual lives through study and congregational participation.
2. Become more active disciples of Christ in the world through their churches.

Walk to Emmaus



*An ecumenical experience for
Christian men and women~*

The focus of Emmaus is God as known in Jesus Christ and how that finds expression in the local church. The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace filled life to be lived and shared with others.

