

A Note from Our Community Spiritual Director: “Praying at Christmas Time”.

I was waiting in line at the Post Office the other day and overheard a man talking about his son visiting from Florida. He was glad to have family at home so he took his grandson to see Santa Claus. When Santa asked the little boy what he wanted for Christmas the little boy said, “Santa, don’t you remember? I told you in Florida in the mall!” It brought a smile to my face and a thought about faith.

I wondered if my prayer life held the faith of the little boy and Santa Claus. Praying once, telling God of my needs and then trusting God heard and remembers may be problematic. Am I more like the widow that keeps coming and coming before the Lord, pestering until I receive vindication? (LK 18:2) Hum, how should I pray?

Jesus prayed, and taught the Disciples to pray, for God’s Will to be done. (LK 11:2, LK 22:42) “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet, not my will but yours be done.” Jesus told God he would rather do something else. Hum, how should I pray?

Here it is, Christmas. Jesus is coming and I wonder if I am ready. What will I say, what will I do, how do I prepare for His arrival? What should my Christmas prayer be like? “Lord, thanks for sending Jesus. Lord, turn our guns and missiles into tractors and houses. Lord, give us peace on Earth. And by the way, could you take care of my bills they are really piling up.” How does it sound to you?

Maybe my prayer should be, “Lord, thanks for entering the world through Jesus. Lord, help me understand what I can do to turn guns and missiles into tractors and houses. Lord, help me understand how I can be a part of Peace on Earth this year. Lord, if Peace comes not this year then guide me to be an instrument of Peace. Lord, I know I have spent more than I have, please forgive me. Lord, open my eyes, ears and heart to your Will. ... [Take time to listen.] ... Thank you, Lord.”

Let us prepare to receive Jesus this year rather than Santa Claus.

**De Colores,
David Mays
Spiritual Director**

CONTINUING TO GROW THROUGH SHEPHERDING OR PILGRIM SPONSORSHIP

Hopefully we are all looking at our “instruction manual” to see if we are on track. We stay on track by reading the Word of God every day, by meditating on His grandeur, His majesty, His awesomeness. Spring is the most obvious time of the year to see God’s amazing renewal taking place in nature all around us (I know it doesn’t seem like it now, but it will be here soon). I think we all just soak it in – all the incredible rebirth happening everywhere, I love spring time in east Texas. We all really need spring right now. Just breathing in the fresh air and soaking up all the beautiful sunshine rejuvenates us, refreshes us, and helps us get back on track after these cold and dark days of winter.

Being involved with the Emmaus Board has lead me to look back at one of the instruction manuals we all received in our Sunday packets when we were pilgrims. I pulled out my Day Four, The Pilgrims Journey to review, and I was surprised to see answered some of the questions I had had for a long time. When I got to Chapter 8, I realized that as a Community, we need to reemphasize the importance of being a good sponsor, and what it means to be a sponsor. I encourage each of you to get your copy of Day Four and re-read this important chapter.

Chapter 8, “The Next Generation: Being a Good Sponsor” says these things: “The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community’s recruiting practices. If the community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, then the community will be a strong, vital force in the renewal movement. If, on the other hand, the Walk to Emmaus is looked upon as a hospital where every human ill can be cured, it will have a weakening effect

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If you have a desire to see the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community to be able to further the ministry of God through the Walk to Emmaus program and would wish to make a automatic monthly tax deductible donation through your bank account, prayerfully consider filling out the form below and mail it back to

GRACE EMMAUS

Treasurer

P.O.Box132212

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The G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community wishes to continue to spread the life-changing experience that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Won't you help us by donating funds for scholarships for both pilgrims and team members or the general fund of our community?

We are asking you to consider donating \$5, \$10, \$25 monthly or whatever amount you would like to set the donation to. This monthly donation will be debited automatically from your bank account on or about the 15th of the month.

Thank you for your continued support of our Emmaus community. DeColores

