

The Emmaus Gospel is all about a profound spiritual activity we don't do nearly enough. Emmaus is all about having a good conversation. Conversations are powerful proofs we're spiritual. In a real conversation, our lips form funny air vibrations and somehow our partner intuits what's inside us. I begin to grasp what's in you; you start to understand what's in me. Conversations make us laugh, cry, get mad, make peace. They may be light or heavy, surprising or predictable. At their best, they change us.

You can never predict for sure when a good conversation may happen. We intend a good conversation, but the magic doesn't arrive. We expect nothing, but sometimes things take off and we communicate. The best we can do is: 1) show up for conversation --- responsibility; 2) Leave room for the other person and not insist they be the audience for you --- that's respect, and 3) be open to the fact that the truth of whatever it is you're talking about is bigger than you, and that something unplanned and wonderful may come out of the conversation you can't imagine at the moment --- humility ... or reverence..

Emmaus is a diagram of what Christians hope happens in a conversations. We begin with words, back and forth. And God contributes his Word, Jesus ... usually not seen or noticed, at least at first. And your heart gets expanded, enhanced, intrigued, stimulated, burns within.

Some conversations are obligatory and privileged. When two people marry, they commit themselves to being dialogue partners, through good times and bad, rich or poor, in sickness or health, as long as they live. Really hard but pretty wonderful: if you can keep up the responsibility, reverence, respect.

Another obligatory privileged conversation is with God: Prayer. If you're a Catholic you know you need ongoing conversation with God as desperately as the body needs daily bread. You also know part of nourishing the quality and direction of prayer is showing up for the weekly Mass --- Mass is a structured part of the conversation that enables the rest of the conversing.

There is the obligatory privileged conversation that is family life. And another, very important, is school. We all know how important it is to have good conversation partners. If all you ever converse with are angry people, bitter peoples, or greedy, shallow unspirited and unspiritual people ... you may end up with a warped view of life. But if your dialogue partners, right from the start, for 8 of the most formative years of your life, are staff, teachers, fellow students and parents with Catholic values, who believe in prayer and honesty and integrity, who practice ... in a flawed but truly intentional sort of way ... reverence, respect, responsibility ... a person might grow up with really good skills for future conversations with spouse, children, God, community.

Congratulations, Sacred Heart school faculty, staff, students, families, alumni ... on this Founder's Day. You've been part of a special conversation between God and the parents and children of this community, that has lasted for 101 years. We should all thank God.

## Prayers of the Faithful

**God has engaged us in conversation by sending his Son, Jesus the word. When we tried to kill the conversation, God responded by raising Jesus back to life. So let us confidently communicate with God now.**

That the Catholic Church and all its institutions become places of honest, open, direct, humble communication and conversation. We pray to the Lord.

That people on both sides of the wars going on learn how to speak to each other. For the protection of armed forces, and that we are led somehow to peace. We pray to the Lord.

For Sacred Heart School, its children, parents, teachers, staff and benefactors ... that we're led to deeper faith, hope and love by our time with each other. We pray to the Lord.

For our town of Salinas, that we are shown effective ways to deal with poor housing and gang violence. And for all people who are experiencing trouble with their housing finances. We pray to the Lord.

For Gerald and Peggy Burns, the intention of this Mass, for Evelyn Gorman buried last week, and Nadine Smith buried this Tuesday. We pray to the Lord.

In this moment of quiet we offer our own needs to God....