

Emmaus House
40th Anniversary
Sunday, June 28, 2015
Remarks
Bishop Richard Pates

My friends of Emmaus House,

I am very delighted to be with you in celebration of the four decades of blessing that Emmaus House has brought to the Diocese of Des Moines.

By way of explanation, I am recovering from recent vocal chord surgery which temporarily impairs my voice. I am grateful for the “voice” who allows me to share these remarks.

Emmaus House has contributed in the diocesan effort to be about its foremost task – enabling believers to be in personal contact with the Lord Jesus and from there with Father and Spirit and all the other personalities of our faith. It fulfills the message in today’s Gospel. The lord is about healing and life.

The House began under the leadership of Bishop Dingman with two Jesuit priests, Father Gene Merz and Gary Brophy. Its primary focus was to accompany our diocesan priests in their spiritual lives as the spirit of Vatican II was introduced. The House still fulfills this purpose as priests under the guidance of Father Dufford and others undergo spiritual direction here.

With the growing realization that holiness and the development of an intense spiritual life is the goal of all Christians, Emmaus House has expanded its outreach to the broader lay community with great effect.

I applaud the courageous decision of the Emmaus’ Board of Directors to now expand its facilities in light of growing needs and to accomplish this goal through a Capital Campaign. I assure all that the effort enjoys the 100% support of the Diocese of Des Moines as well as my personal support in the form of participation in the campaign. I urge your investment as well. Such will be a valuable contribution to enabling so many more to benefit from the Emmaus ministry.

In a special way I want to thank the leadership of Emmaus House, in particular its co-directors, Father Dan Krettek and Cindy Shaw, for their passionate dedication to this ministry. Moreover, the institution is most fortunate to be guided by a Board of Directors characterized by wisdom, energy and a strong commitment to growth.

May the continuing ministry of Emmaus House be abundantly blessed.