

Pilgrim fee structure

After much prayerful consideration and lengthy discussion your Board of Directors addressed the important issue of increased costs of the Walk to Emmaus weekend. This is a matter that we have brought to the Emmaus Community, for discussion and input at the last three 4th day events. I wish to thank all those who shared valuable information and opinions with the Board.

The Sponsorship fee for the Walk to Emmaus in the Crossroads Emmaus Community has been \$160.00 for several years. Yet the costs to hold the Walk have been increasing each year. Through careful attention to costs we have been able to hold our sponsorship fee at the same level during this period of time. During the last two years the sponsorship fee has not covered the cost of offering the Emmaus experience to our pilgrims. The Crossroads Emmaus community has had the resources to make up the short fall in the cost to host a pilgrim. We will not be able to continue to provide these funds as we move forward into 2011. We have been informed that the cost of our weekends will continue to increase. The Crossroads Emmaus Community has been one of the few communities within the Emmaus International ministry, where a pilgrim attending the Walk did not pay the attendance fee. Our Sponsors have paid the total cost as an act of Agape to the pilgrim being sponsored.

The Board of Directors has approved at our January 2011 meeting to hold the \$160.00 sponsorship fee firm. A sponsor will continue to pay this amount when sponsoring a Pilgrim.

Beginning with the fall 2011 Walks we will be asking the pilgrim to provide a non-refundable \$40.00 fee to participate in the Walk to Emmaus. This will bring the total fee for the Walk to \$200 per pilgrim. \$160 paid by the sponsor and \$40 provided by the pilgrim. Sponsors, when you collect the completed pilgrim application form also collect the non-refundable \$40 fee. Please have all checks made payable to Crossroads Walk to Emmaus EPC.

The new fee structure will keep our community solvent and the \$200 weekend fee is in line with the majority of Emmaus Communities worldwide.

By having the pilgrim participate in the weekend fee, we believe that the number of last minute pilgrim drop offs will decrease, as they now will have a financial interest in the Walk. If a pilgrim cannot attend the Walk on the weekend intended, the \$40 fee will be applied to the next scheduled Walk. Please ensure that the pilgrim is aware that the \$40 fee is truly non-refundable.

Updated forms for Pilgrims and Sponsors are available on the community web site.

De Colores,
Terry Cooney
Community Lay Director