



SONrise *July - August* *2003*
EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER
... Strengthening the Local Church

Preach the Gospel to all the world and if necessary use words.

- Saint Francis of Assisi

Years ago, as a high school student Stephen used this quote as an answer to a questionnaire asking "The Best Advice I Ever Heard." Last month God blessed Steve and me with an unplanned, unanticipated day in Assisi. We had tried to work Assisi into our original itinerary because of that quote which meant so much to our son, but it seemed there was not enough time. However, one evening we "happened" to realize we could make a day trip the following day to Assisi. That day "happened" to be a Sunday. We "happened" to arrive at the Basilica of St. Francis as an Italian mass was beginning, followed by a mass in English. What a blessing we received that day in Assisi. We even decided that St. Francis would approve of our celebrating communion in his basilica. We are so thankful God put Assisi into our itinerary.

What does this have to do with Emmaus? Well, lots of things. My faith and Walk and that of my family have grown because of the "preaching of the Gospel, often without words" though our original walks and flights and even more through the service we have been privileged to give in return. There are many, many opportunities to preach the Gospel in our homes, our churches, our workplaces, our geographic communities, and our Emmaus community.

Think back to your pilgrim walk and all the preaching of the Gospel without words - all the food prepared and served, Entertainment, Candlelight, Midnight bowling (ask David Fairweather if you are unfamiliar with midnight bowling) just to start the list. And, of course, remember when words were necessary - the talks, chapel times, words shared with your table, and your priceless letters. Now it is your turn. Please take to heart the humble servant's message of St. Francis. Preach the Gospel to all the world and if necessary use words.

De Colores!
Carolyn Rochelle, Community Lay Director