

EMMAUS *STILL WATERS EMMAUS COMMUNITY*



A MODEL SPONSOR

The following are some excerpts from an interview with Jean Johnson, a member of the Nashville Upper Room Emmaus Community. She went through Cursillo in 1980 and has been very active in the Emmaus community.

Sponsorship is like being a godparent. The responsibility of the godparent isn't just to stand with a person at the front of the church, but to see them grow in their spiritual life.

During the weekend, I always try to let the family know that I have seen the Pilgrim and that they are doing fine, that they are having a good time.

After the Walk, I feel strongly that you should call the persons you sponsor. Sometimes people are excited to change the world, but the fire can die down if it is not fed. I think as a sponsor my job is to see that the fire is fed and grows. It doesn't take that much—a phone call, an invitation to a Gathering. Maybe instead of going to Candlelight, I keep their kids so that they can go, or so they can work in the kitchen on an Emmaus Weekend. The more they see you working on the weekend, the more special they feel. Serving in the kitchen, helping with the decorations, helping with transportation or luggage, find out ways you can help on the weekend.

I also try to get my Pilgrim together with some of the other Pilgrims and help them get started in a group reunion. I meet with them several times and show them what it's all about. I have my own group, but I help them get started in their own group, or invite them to mine. When I don't see the person I sponsored at a Gathering, my responsibility isn't to pester them to death, but to contact them, offer to go with them the next time.