

Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education

Volume 53

Article 23

2-1-2018

Book Notice: *Emmaus: The Nature of the Way*

Chris Yates

Follow this and additional works at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations>

Recommended Citation

Yates, Chris (2018) "Book Notice: *Emmaus: The Nature of the Way*," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*: Vol. 53 , Article 23.
Available at: <https://epublications.marquette.edu/conversations/vol53/iss1/23>

BOOK NOTICE

Emmaus: The Nature of the Way

By Chris Yates

(Note: The previous issue of Conversations ran a notice about a new book about the Jesuits at Loyola Marymount University, and we noted that the author Chris Yates would have some words for us later about the background. Here is Chris's story.)

They told us that the NBCUniversal Campus 2 Career Internship Program had a more exclusive acceptance rate than Harvard, but it took an entire year for me to realize that even this could not fill the God-shaped hole that was in my heart. I remember sitting at my desk on the top floor of the Comcast NBCUniversal building, reading a script for a show that would air eight months later,

and I had a realization. Historically, there has not been a lot of overlap between the entertainment industry and faith, so I took that same mentality. And it took me four years to realize that they did not have to be separated.

Many people ask me what I am – photographer, filmmaker, director – but at my core I am a storyteller. I find stories that need to be told, and in this case, *Emmaus: The Nature of the Way* proved to me that faith and art go hand and hand.

I completed my undergraduate education at Loyola Marymount University and was very involved in Campus Ministry as a student. I had found a treasure trove of spiritual tools in the Je-

suits that I met, but what I also found changed my life forever: friendship. I wanted to find a way to express to the world the friendship and humanity that these Jesuits so humbly shared with me.

About a year into creating *Emmaus: The Nature of the Way*, it became blatantly clear that for the majority of people, there was a disconnect between a priest and a human being. And because of this, there were barriers that made these men unapproachable and not relatable. Ever since stepping onto LMU's campus, my personal experience has been nothing but the opposite and therefore heavily inspired the creation of this book.

This book's existence is lived experience and is a dynamic piece of art that changes as much as the person who views it. Whether you know all 22 Jesuits photographed or know zero, what you will come to know is a narrative of collective experiences that extends a hand out to you, as a friend. You will read word-for-word stories about a Jesuit's mother's first Alzheimer's episode, a Jesuit's fight with addiction, and how a second grade class helped a Jesuit overcome his stroke.

The Nature of the Way as defined here is not an adjective, but a verb. It is a way of relating in which you view your personal journey to Emmaus with the understanding that no matter what your destination or your path is, you are not alone.

Chris Yates graduated from Loyola Marymount in 2016; after spending a volunteer year in campus ministry at the University of Illinois Chicago, he returned to LMU to manage their photography labs. His collaborator, photographer Robert Macaia, graduated from LMU in 2014 and works as a professional photographer in Los Angeles.



Chris Yates (left) and his collaborator, photographer Robert Macaia (right, seen from behind), set up a shot for *Emmaus, the Nature of the Way*.