



BEREAVEMENT Ministry

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION/OVERVIEW:

The Bereavement ministry's mission is to provide comfort and support to the grieving family members. We try to make the funeral process as easy as possible, all the while remembering that every funeral is exactly the same by design, yet totally different in the way each individual experiences it and remembers it.

ACTIVITIES OF MINISTRY:

- To serve the family, making the funeral process less stressful
- Plan a memorial Mass for parishioners who have lost a loved one
- Send sympathy cards to the family several months after the funeral to assure them their loved one is still being remembered in prayer
- Visit the funeral home
- Act as Greeters, Lectors, Altar Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers for each funeral Mass.
Fold and hand out worship aids
- Rotating schedule, commitment times vary

EXPECTATIONS OF MINISTRY:

- Act as Ushers, Lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers for the funeral Mass
- Answer any questions for family and friends during the Mass and create an atmosphere of hospitality
- Provide the extra worship aids for the family to mail to other friends and family who could not attend the funeral Mass

Witness Statement 1:

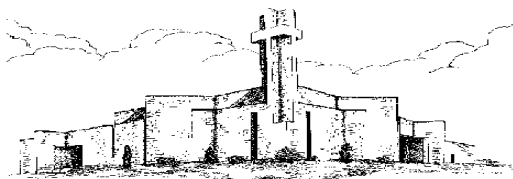
When I joined the Bereavement Ministry many years ago, I wanted to help families, even in the smallest way, through their grief. Over the years, I've witnessed and grown from the gifts that others, young and old, bring to our group...gifts of comfort and compassion during those difficult days. The homilies, and so many of the eulogies we hear, show us how to become more Christ-like. I am comforted to experience the members of our Bereavement Ministry, along with many ministries, we grow close to one another. Many people have said that they often join a ministry to give of themselves, which is what God has asked us to do, but then are fortunate to experience this!

Anne Spring

Witness Statement 2:

Recently asked what we got out of serving in the Bereavement Ministry, we agree that it was fulfillment and satisfaction from helping those in need during this painful process in their lives. When we joined the ministry, we never even considered what we might get out of it, but only what we might give to those who desperately need it. God works most often through those around us, and our members are the most caring and dedicated group I have ever known. They all make every effort to be available on short notice to meet the needs of the bereaved family. We know this because of those families we have comforted. We are forever changed.

Bill and Barb Schwartz



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