

GRIEF Ministry



MINISTRY DESCRIPTION/OVERVIEW:

The Grief Ministry provides support to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one, one of the more difficult things we have to endure in our lives. It can feel like you are the only one going through this experience, or that you are going crazy. This ministry provides support and helps you to know that you are not alone in your experience of grief. Sharing and learning that others have similar experiences, aides in the healing process.

ACTIVITIES OF MINISTRY:

We serve:

- Parishioners
- Members of the neighboring eastside churches
- Anyone who is referred to us regardless of religious affiliation

What We Do:

- Facilitate a monthly support group
- Make regular announcements in bulletin, both Our Lady of Mercy and other local churches
- Arrange for one on one ministry as needed
- Host a Ceremony of Remembrance in May
- Each November/December Focus on "Getting through the Holidays after losing a loved one"

EXPECTATIONS OF MINISTRY

A ministry member can participate in any of these responsibilities:

- Be available for one on one ministry as needed – time varies based on need- 2 to 4 hours a month as long as there is a need
- Participate in the monthly support group – be willing to share your story, listen attentively to others. Time commitment is 1.5 to 2 hours per month
- Participate in the ceremony of remembrance in May. Time - 2 to 3 hours once a year.
- Address invitations to the ceremony of remembrance for those who have lost someone in the last 6 months. Time – 2 hours once a year.
- Become a substitute facilitator for the group.

Witness Statement 1:

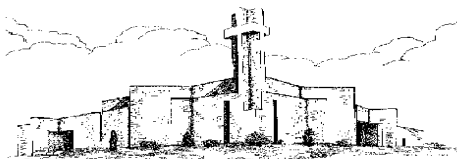
Lamentations 3: 21-24 "But I will call this to mind as a reason to have hope. The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, His mercies are not spent. They are renewed each morning, so great is His faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul, therefore will I hope in Him."

Sue Haynes

Witness Statement 2:

People need people , we need each other. Grief support is that for me, learning to face forever what we have lost, together. I am not alone....I am blessed....I am thankful....God has been so good to me!

Anonymous



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