

## Holy Spirit Parish Christian Service Commission

### Notes from Bereavement Ministry Planning Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 6:30 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul

**Present:** Maureen Balyeat, Rosann Johnson, Mary Jo Lacher, and Kathy Nyman-Wendt,

**Pastoral Council Representatives:** Kasie Allen and Dawn Clutter-Collins

**Staff:** Cindy Eultgen

We went around the group giving our name and a brief example of our experience of grief & one main idea that the parish needs regarding bereavement. An awesome discussion and brainstorming session led from there.

Discussion:

- A luncheon does not seem appealing to launch
- There are some models of experience that we could utilize their ideas as we get started
  - Compassionate Friends <https://www.compassionatefriends.org/>
  - Class style (such as a number of sessions) may not be helpful or realistic
  - Check with our diocese and others to see what they have done
    - Archdiocese of Boston <http://www.bostoncatholic.org/Bereavement/>
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- The importance of being available and accessible to parishioners at any time/day or night
  - Meeting someone for Mass or other needs through the week
  - Having a list of phone numbers to call presented in multiple ways to the parish
    - Bulletin, flier/card/handout, stated on the phone recording, website, etc
  - 1:1 or 1:3 people
  - Provide phone list/tree
- Organized routine of regular weekly 'meeting' (gathering) times provided both during the daytime and evening for *small groups*
  - consistent and dependable for parishioners to come any time
  - will need training, leadership/facilitator dedicated to each week
  - discussion style rather than class style
- Annual Ceremonies like the one we have during November would be good, but perhaps a few more ceremonies throughout the year to honor specific needs
  - Miscarriage
  - Suicide
- Other types of grieving need to be recognized too
  - Separation of relationships (marriage etc) due to the loss of a child/family member

## We will need to

Put this information out to the parish

Identify , invite, and ask people to be involved in the different aspects and organize the work

1. Planners and idea people as we begin
2. Prayer people
  - a. For this burgeoning ministry
  - b. For the grieving
3. Leaders/facilitators of small groups
  - a. Daytime
  - b. Evening
4. Availability for phone calls
  - a. During the day/week
  - b. During the evening/night
5. Availability to meet for Mass
6. Follow-up after Funeral
  - a. Phone calls
  - b. Send cards
  - c. Meet
  - d. Help with whatever
7. Educators for training
8. Coordinate with Fr. Doug and Worship Commission for Rituals & Ceremonies
9. Continue to find out what is being done in other parishes to glean information

It was suggested that we each pray and invite the Holy Spirit to guide and help us in this process.

We will meet again on **January 30** at 6 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul. Entrance will be open at the alley for closer walk.

Cindy Eultgen