Testimonials from Pastors and Participants

“We have appreciated the gentle manner in which Christ is presented to grieving people.” Facilitator

“This has been the most rewarding and fulfilling ministry in my 50 years of serving.” Pastor

“Brought me back into relationship with God and the church.” Participant

ARCHDIOCESAN GRIEF SUPPORT COMMITTEE

For more information on the Archdiocesan Grief Support Program, please contact any of the following Committee members.

Erica Cohen Moore
Ericac@seattlearch.org

Deacon Carl Chilo
Carl.Chilo@seattlearch.org

Deacon John Elahaw
deaconjohnelshaw@comcast.net

Make Gallitelli
Make.Gallitelli@seattlearch.org

Frank Hammock
hammockfmn785@comcast.net

Allen Larpenteur
allenlarp@comcast.net

Sharon Rasmussen
srasmussen910@yahoo.com

Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

Archdiocese of Seattle

710 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: 206-382-4560
Email:

GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAMS

If one member suffered in the body of Christ which is the Church, all members suffer with that member.
1 Corinthians 12:26
The need for grief support exists at the parish level. Many individuals and families suffer grief from the loss of a loved one, a job, a marriage, or something else that is important to them. They look for a place to turn, especially within their parish, and they want someone to walk with them as they negotiate their personal journey of grief. Within the Archdiocese of Seattle, a few parishes provide these sources of comfort.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle now offers resources to organize and offer parish-level Grief Support Programs. The Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, the Archbishop of Seattle, fully supports this new ministry and hopes deaneries within the Archdiocese will make information about this program available to those parishes that express a desire to create this ministry.

The Archdiocesan Office of Pastoral Ministry has prepared this brochure that highlights a Grief Support Program model. The model suggested is quite simple, yet it includes a large resource section for additional research so that the model can be easily modified to meet the specific needs of any parish or parish cluster. Please prayerfully consider creating this ministry within your parish.

“Our grieving hearts say to us of our loved ones who have died, “We Belong together!” and God says to us in response, “You’re right! You have all been made to be together forever in me. My grace is at work in this temporary separation, in this great, mysterious Symphony of being. “Be at peace and know that your loved ones are safely with me.”

— Archbishop J. Peter Sartain

**Our Mission**
To assist those grieving throughout the Archdiocese of Seattle by providing spiritual and emotional support

**Our Vision**
To see the Holy Spirit and the graces of the Sacraments nourishing the bereaved.

**The Basics**
A Parish level Grief Support Program needs the following elements to successfully support individuals grieving the loss of loved ones:

- Pastoral Approval
- Parish Staff Support
- Funding (Parish budget item or donations from participants)
- Location
- Schedule (Dates and times)
- Advertising
- Program Coordinator
- Program Facilitators
- Training
- Meeting Format
- Resources