

# **Bereavement Ministry (BM)**

*"Blessed are those who weep and mourn for they shall be comforted"*

"Grief is the other side of the coin of love" (Rabbi Earl Grollman)

Simply stated, grief happens because we love; because we care.

Grief is the normal, natural, necessary response to a significant loss.

The more significant the loss, the more acute the grief response.

Grief represents a set of behaviors and feelings that are normal reactions to major loss and change.

## **At IHM we offer love, comfort and support to bereaved families.**

The Bereavement Ministry serves families who have lost a loved one to death through IHM Parish. The members of the ministry are trained to successfully implement our mission to give comfort and support to the grieving families of the IHM community by giving of time, hearing their thoughts and sharing their tears.

For more information on how to become a part of the IHM Bereavement Ministry, please contact the parish office at 215-483-1000 or Linda Avila.

## **What is the Scope of the Bereavement Ministry?**

The members of the ministry personally reach out to grieving families with comfort and support through:

Attending the funeral, when possible

Sending cards and notes

Personal visits if requested

Contact during the holidays

Offering additional resources if requested.

## **Who may volunteer for the Bereavement Ministry?**

The IHM Bereavement Ministry invites any parishioner who is willing to share care and support to those who mourn and grief. By giving of your time and supportive care you will bring comfort and consolation to parishioners in grief. You will only require a Christ-like compassion for people. Training will be provided.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How often do I serve?**

At IHM we are re-creating the Bereavement Ministry. You will serve as and when the need arises. You may also serve on a rotating basis. You can also choose to serve as a substitute or trade off with the other BMs.

### **What's the time commitment?**

Generally, the time commitment varies depending on your willingness and availability. There is not going to be any more demand of your time than what you can give with joy in service!

### **Are there meetings?**

Generally, the meetings are very few and average once or twice a year. A training session is provided for all new BMs.

### **Whom should I contact if I have more questions?**

If you have any further questions, please contact the Parish Office by phone: 215-483-1000

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- A registered member of our parish

- Desire to serve the bereaved with care and empathy
- Attend the training session (no more than 1 hour)

You are welcome to sign-up if you can serve as BM or are interested in becoming involved in the Bereavement Ministry please contact the parish office at 215-483-1000.