

THE MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION AT ST. ROSALIE'S CHURCH

The purpose of the new Ministry of Consolation is to assist parishioners who have suffered a death in the family. We walk with the family through the wake and funeral process, aid them in making liturgical choices, and offer genuine caring from the St. Rosalie's parish community.

The ministry has mainly a liturgical focus, and is not to be confused with grief counseling. The issues of grief are worked through, in part, in our Lazarus Bereavement Group, another important ministry at St. Rosalie's. The Ministry of Consolation does, however, provide personal contact, warmth and outreach to people at time when it is most needed.

The Ministry of Consolation at St. Rosalie's Church embarked on its mission late in September, 2013, with seven dedicated volunteers. The response that we have received from families who have suffered a loss has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are blessed as Christians to be able to be of service to our brothers and sisters. Even so, this volunteer-only ministry is severely understaffed, and so we are reaching out to others who have the time, skills and desire to join us in this enriching ministry.

The major roles in the Ministry of Consolation are:

- † **Coordinator;**
- † **Companion;**
- † **Hospitality;**
- † **Cake Baker; and**
- † **Funeral Booklet Team.**

All roles are important; all require different commitments of time and skill. Parishioners volunteer for one or more of these roles and are placed on a weekly rotating schedule. As our membership increases, the demands on individual members will decrease. We will provide all training as necessary.

St. Rosalie's



Consolation
Ministry

For the next several weeks, I will offer some details on each role. Today I will focus on coordinator.

Coordinator

The scheduled Coordinator has a supervisory role in the ministry that week. The Coordinator must be organized, dedicated and good with people. This is the person who first receives notification of the funeral from the Parish Office. The Coordinator will then contact the rest of the week's team, usually by telephone, provide the necessary information and insure that each role is covered. The Coordinator is not required to leave home to fulfill his/her obligations to the ministry, but may choose to make the calls from the Parish Center and/or offer support to the rest of the team as necessary. The Coordinator's period of activity is mostly afternoon or evening, but the window is small: Since we have so little time between first notification and wake-funeral, it is necessary that the Coordinator be available to relay the information to the rest of the week's team as quickly as possible, and confirm coverage.

Says parishioner Jim Leopard of his first week as Coordinator: "As Coordinator, it is gratifying to see all the work the other ministers put into the Consolation Ministry. You have a real sense of community."

Next week, we will discuss the role of **COMPANION**. In the meantime, if you feel drawn to any part of this ministry, please contact me, Father Kevin, at 631-728-9461.