




DIOCESE OF
TRENTON

Office of Pastoral Life and Mission

MEMORANDUM

Date: **October 8, 2020**

To: **Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Associates/Assistants and Bereavement/Pastoral Care Ministers**

From: **Terry A. Ginther, Chancellor and Executive Director, Pastoral Life & Mission** 

Re: **Grieving and Accompanying those Dealing with Loss**

May the peace of the Lord be with you!

Many people are experiencing grief during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some were unable to be with a loved one when they died or are unable to mourn in-person with family and friends. Some are healthcare professionals who have cared for the sick and the dying over long weeks and months. Many have lost employment, a place to live, or the daily routines that bring comfort and a feeling of stability in life. These losses can happen at the same time, which can complicate or prolong grief and delay a person's ability to adapt, heal, and recover. (paraphrase CDC, 6-11-20)

You may be experiencing the symptoms of grief yourself. As a pastoral care provider, undoubtedly you have been ministering in the best way you can among the members of your parish who are experiencing loss. It is a challenge to do this at a distance, but there are practices we can share.

Please consider these upcoming opportunities that are being offered to support you in dealing with grief and in accompanying parishioners who are grieving. They have been designed with you in mind. Most will take place virtually to make it convenient for you to participate and keep you safe. Register online today!



**Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted
- Mt 5:4**

October 21 (7 – 8 pm) or Oct 23 (10 -11 am), 2020

How to Feel Calmer in the midst of the Corona Virus Pandemic (1 hr)

Presenter: Sr. Anne Myers, SSJ, PhD conducted on Zoom – Flyer attached

Offered by Francis House of Prayer www.fhop.org

Oct 31 through December 5, 2020

Our Lady of Guadalupe Torches in a Season of Remembrance

This year the Torches will process in memory of those who, because of the Covid-19 virus or any other illness or circumstance, have died. The lighting of the torches and the weeklong visitation of the torches in the hosting parishes will focus on asking Our Lady to intercede for our beloved dead and for the healing of those who mourn their loss.

Please see the Tribute Wall Memorial and the other resources on the Diocesan website for additional information

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/guadalupe>

Nov 4, 2020 (2 pm)

Grief in the Time of COVID-19: A Parish Response (1 hr)

A webinar for priests, deacons and parish staff

Conducted on Zoom; will be recorded.

Featuring Dr. Alice Beal (palliative care), Sr. Terry Rickard, Msgr George Hundt

Sponsored by Diocese of Trenton in collaboration with RENEW International

<https://pages.renewintl.org/trenton-grief-in-the-time-of-covid>

Nov 5, 12 & 19, 2020 (2pm)

Grief in the Time of COVID:19: A Pastoral Care Minister's Response

A 3-part interactive web series for pastoral care/bereavement ministers (90 min sessions)

1. Exploring the experience of loss
2. Accompanying the Grieving in a time of social distance
3. Conducting Virtual Bereavement Groups

Conducted on Zoom; small portions may be recorded.

Sponsored by Diocese of Trenton in collaboration with RENEW International

<https://pages.renewintl.org/trentonpastoralcare>

Dec 15, 2020 (9:30 – 1:30 pm)

Grief and the Holidays; led by Sr. Marcy Springer, SSJ

In-person (limited capacity) or Zoom; Offered by Francis House of Prayer

www.fhop.org/one-day-offerings