

**ST. MARY OF THE LAKE**  
**White Bear Lake, MN**  
**MINISTRY DESCRIPTION**

**Position Title:** Minister of Consolation

**Purpose:**

To provide bereavement support, through personal follow-up, to parishioners who have experienced the death of a loved one in order to ensure that no member of our parish walks the journey of grief alone.

**Responsibilities:**

- Participate in Ministry of Consolation training (initial and on-going)
- Attend Ministry of Consolation team meetings every 6-8 weeks
- Initially contact an assigned bereaved parishioner within 6-8 weeks after the death and personally deliver candle and packet of information
- Maintain contact with the bereaved parishioner, as need and circumstances indicate, through personal contact, telephone calls, and cards for 12 – 18 months
- Report to coordinators and/or Director of Outreach Ministries any needs of the bereaved that may require other parish support/involvement

**Qualifications:**

- Pass an annual background screening check and sign the Code of Conduct
- Have experienced a loss by death, minimally 24 months ago
- Possess a compassionate manner
- Be an attentive and sensitive listener
- Be conscientious in follow-up
- Able to visit parishioner's home or place of mutual agreement

**Time Commitment:**

Varies according to each situation; minimally expect one hour initial home visit, periodic phone calls and other visits; will have, on the average, 3 contacts at any given point in time

**Length of commitment:**

Following the initial training, approximately ten hours, a one year ministerial commitment is desirable. After that, the term of commitment is up to the individual minister, depending on their time availability, health, and ministerial satisfaction.

**Training:**

Initial training is provided by our parish Ministry of Consolation coordinators, using the **Ministry of Consolation** training manual developed by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. The training schedule is mutually determined by the coordinators and the participants prior to the actual training. Training can be done for a period of six, 1 –2 hour evening meetings, or over the course of one weekend.

**Responsible to:**

The Ministry of Consolation coordinators are primary contacts for the program, with support and direction from the Director of Outreach Ministries and the Outreach Ministries Committee.

May 2007