**Best Practices for Parish Grief Ministry Groups**

All Souls Day prayer and remembrance

[Books-DVDS-Online Videos Resource List](http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Library/Newsletters.aspx)

Coordinating with funeral ministry and parish office with death announcements and parish ministry serving elderly, sick and homebound

Copyright permission info

Generic Enrollment Forms/contact info template

Generic follow-up postcard and process

Generic Information Sheet for each parish (trifold)

Group covenants, norms, rules, confidentiality

Length and frequency of meetings based on type of group

Listening skills

Music\* instrumental, sung

Nametags

Open and/or closed groups (determine what type of group)

Opening and closing prayers, including faith sharing

Prayer practices

[Prayer in Time of Bereavement](http://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=3142)  (Catholic Online)

Parish bulletin flyers, including routine posting of reminders and pulpit announcement

Parish website information posting-keep updated information present

Remembering dates (birthdays, anniversaries of deaths) holidays to recognized those who are grieving and those who have passed.

Sequencing the meeting, agenda, flow (prayer, rules, stories, sharing)

Setting up the environment, including prayer space and sacred sharing items (memory stones, candles, rituals – vs habits e.g. meaningful and the gift of structure/predictability

Signage for meetings-where located, time, place, etc.

Simple grief vs. complicated grief and transferal/referral

Small group facilitation ([Cynde Bosshart](http://www.ststephenslife.com/people/cynde-bosshart))

**Funeral Planning/Pre-Planning**

* [USCCB](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/index.cfm)-(United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) Bereavement and Funerals (scroll down this page for other funeral planning resources)
  + [Funeral Rites](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/overview-of-catholic-funeral-rites.cfm)
  + [Readings for the Funeral Liturgy](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/readings-for-the-funeral-liturgy.cfm)
  + [Cremation and the Order of Christian Funerals](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/cremation-and-funerals.cfm)
* [Associated Catholic Cemeteries](http://www.acc-seattle.com/index.html)
* [Resources](http://acc-seattle.com/resources/index.html)
* [Planning Ahead](http://acc-seattle.com/preplanning/index.html)
* [Burial vs. Cremation](http://acc-seattle.com/cremation/index.html)
* [Planning a Funeral Service](http://www.acc-seattle.com/preplanning/resources.htm)
  + [Readings, music](https://olgseattle.org/funeral-music)
  + [Prayers, Scripture](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/bereavement-and-funerals/prayers-for-death-and-dying.cfm)

[Brochures & Booklets](http://www.acc-seattle.com/preplanning/resources.htm)

[Associated Catholic Cemeteries-Seattle](http://www.acc-seattle.org/)

[WSCC](http://thewscc.org/end-of-life--living-will.html) (Washington State Catholic Conference)-end of life/living will

[Planned Giving](http://www.seattlearchpg.org/) (Pre-planning & Estate Planning Archdiocese of Seattle)

**Other Recommended Resources**

[CareNotes](http://www.onecaringplace.com/category.asp?c=40539) – (Catholic Perspectives) Abbey Press Publications

[POLST](http://www.polst.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/POLST-2011-WA.pdf) (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment **FORM**)

[WICS](http://www.kcwics.org/) (Widows Information and Consultation Services)

* **Catholic Programs**

[Cabrini Ministry Training](http://www.cabriniministry.org/)

[The Bereavement Ministry Program](https://www.avemariapress.com/product/1-59471-192-5/The-Bereavement-Ministry-Program/) (Parish Program Resource Binder)

Harvesting Our Tears

**Presenters**

[Mary Hejnal](https://www.evergreenhealth.com/grief)

[Brian DesRoiches](http://www.briandesroches.com/index.html) [Bob Baugher](https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=bob+baugher)

[Compassionate Friends](http://www.tcfseattle.org/) (Seattle King County Chapter)

[Carla Loucks](mailto:carla@cabriniministry.org) –Cabrini Ministry Training Workshops