

*Essential aspects of the Ministry*

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*Ministry of Consolation*

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When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death; so that as Christ was raised from the death by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life

* Familiarize with the Ritual book **Order of Christian Funerals**: know each of the rituals, know the different prayers and intercessions that relate to different deaths (children, spouse, suicide, violent death, long term illness, among others).
* Spend time reading, reflecting and praying with the texts to be read.
* Practice with your ministry of consolation

group and give each other feedback.

* Familiarize with the deceased: type of death, short bio, and remaining family.
* Ask about the relatives to be mentioned and named
* How did the person die?
* Person’s faith life, if any
* Person’s occupation, hobbies
* Other information (special family situation)
* Be sensitive to the age of the deceased and assembly when choosing prayers.
* Get together once a month to pray

 together for your ministry and the

 ones who are ministered to.

* Attend conferences and classes about

Ministry of Consolation, Grief Support,

Grief Ministry, Liturgical Books on Funeral Rites.

**To Console those who mourn**

Pray for the dead and comfort those who mourn by:

* Having funeral rites to intercede for the dead, to minister the sorrowful, and offering worship, praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life, which has now been returned to God
* Assisting in planning the Funeral Rites with the family
* Participating and offering support through the Funeral Rites
* Offering continuous support through a support group
* Offering on going support with grief related worskshops
* Offering different resources to our bereaved

*What does the Ministry of Consolation do?*

**Romans 6: 3-5**

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Tips for Parishes

How to start the

 Ministry of Consolation



*How will I be trained?*

1. Meet with your pastor to determine the scope of the Ministry by responding the following:
	1. What are the parish needs?
	2. What does the Parish currently offer?
	3. How would the ministry be expanded? (In case the Parish offers some kind of support)
	4. What resources are needed?

 Funds, Space, Volunteers

1. Get the word out that the ministry is either starting or growing and needs members/ volunteers. Start with your other ministries: Music, liturgical, readers and outreach.
2. Form a team with the following ministers: ushers, lectors, musicians, eucharistic ministers, widows/widowers, parents that have lost children, folks who have lost parents, people who have lost a loved one.
3. Meet with prospective members and interview them. If they are capable to be a minister, send them to the training offered by the Office for Worship of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles
4. Market your Ministry through the Bulletin, Mass anouncements, setting a table after each Mass, putting a flyer in the pews, adding it to the Web Page, create glossy postcards for parishioners, provide hospitality after a Sunday Mass

It is important that every time a new minister joins, he/she should be trained on how to be a Minister of Consolation by the Office of Worship. The training focuses on:

Understanding Catholic Funeral Rituals and Funeral Planning

Ministering to the bereaved

Understanding what is grief and mourning

Building a support group in your Parish

***Action Plan***

*The objective of the ministry is that the bereaved sense that their parish is genuinely concerned about them, and that their deceased is being prayed for. The goal is to accompany the bereaved during their loss and pain.*

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*Who can be in this ministry?*

*What are the qualities of a minister?*

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Good listeners

Respect Confidentiality

Are familiar with the liturgy

Genuine love for the other

Non-judgmental attitude

Honest, empathic

Compassionate, unselfish, patient

Faith in others, that they can work it out

Knowledge that they can’t fix the bereaved but can be present to them

*What areas does the ministry involve?*

1. Liturgical assitance: Visiting family and planning the Rituals, Memorial mass, All Souls Mass, prepare liturgy with or for the family (choosing lectors, gift bearers, pallbearers), lead prayer where necessary
	1. Prayers after death
	2. Gathering in the Presence of the Body
	3. Vigil
	4. Rite of Committal
2. Practical assitance: notifications, meals, transportation, babysitting, house sitting, reception planning.
3. On going Support: Facilitating Support Groups, referrals to professionals when needed, visits after funeral, sending notes and making phone calls.

***Why should we have a Ministry of Consolation in our Parish?***

We are called as Catholics to serve in the Ministry of Consolation, as per our baptism and being nourished at the same table of the Lord, we are responsible for one another (OFC #8). When a member of Christ’s Body dies, the faithful are called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love. Christian consolation is rooted in that hope that comes from faith in the saving death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (OCF #8). The Ministry as defined in n. 8 of the OFC involves to “**care for the dying, to pray for the dead and to comfort those who mourn. “ (OFC 8)**