



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

March 15, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Last year we had 47 funerals here. Each funeral represents a story. Some have died at an old age. Some have died at a young age. Some died suddenly due to an accident. Many of those who have died are people I have known over the years. Some I haven't known at all. A funeral is more than a rite. A funeral Mass is a beautiful celebration of one's call to eternal life, for we are an Easter people. It also provides an opportunity to provide comfort to the family members who have lost a loved one.

Like so many of the ministries at St. John Fisher, ministering to the family at the time of the loss of a loved one is not done by the priest alone. It involves the concerted efforts of many people here. I am grateful for the efforts of those volunteers involved in the Bereavement Ministry. There are usually at least two bereavement ministers who help the priests in planning the funeral. Together the priest, music department, and bereavement ministers assist the family in selecting the scripture readings, prayers, and music for the Mass. On the day of the Mass the bereavement ministers are on site at the Church to greet the family as they arrive and assist them with preparing for the readings in the Mass. The bereavement ministers accompany the family on the day of the funeral, prepare the lectors, interact with the funeral directors, and assist the priest with distributing Communion.

If you have a compassionate heart and the gift of presence please consider joining this ministry. Since there are so many funerals each year, I would like to see more bereavement ministers. It is a most gratifying ministry. I can't overstate the effect it has on the family as these dedicated people provide a listening and supportive presence to a grieving family. If you feel inadequate for the task, I can assure you that you will have extensive training and will work with those who have done it before. We are looking for those who would be free in the late morning or early afternoon, for that is usually the time of the funeral Masses.

If you would like more information about this feel free to call the parish office. This may be an opportunity to put your faith in action and get so much back in return.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor