

Supporting the Ministry of Consolation

Members

Members are bereavement caregivers who offer support on the parish, diocesan, and national levels to those who mourn a loss through death; bereaved persons; and those who support the vision and mission of NCMB.



History of The National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved

In 1988, Gerard S. Garey, President of the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, initiated a survey to Catholic bishops throughout the United States. The survey asked for information pertaining to active bereavement ministry in their dioceses. A think tank of Catholic bereavement ministers from throughout the United States was called together by the Raskob Foundation to begin to search for ways to help those who grieve.

At the same time the National Conference of Catholic Bishops was writing the *Order of Christian Funerals*. The Spirit gathered people together to bring comfort and meaning into the lives of those suffering the loss of a loved one. As a result of this survey, the National Catholic Ministry to

the Bereaved (NCMB) was established in 1990 to service the grief support needs identified by the bishops.

The *Order of Christian Funerals* expresses it well: "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. Christian hope faces the reality of death and the anguish of grief but trusts confidently that the power of sin and death have been vanquished by the risen Lord. The Church calls each member of Christ's Body—priest, deacon, layperson—to participate in the ministry of consolation: to care for the dying,

to pray for the dead, to comfort those who mourn."

In the Scriptures Jesus comforts those who mourn, as in Matthew 11:28-29: "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, I will give you rest.... and you will find rest." In the same Gospel, Jesus reassures us of God's solace: "Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!" (5:4). We as Christians follow this example.

The National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved, Inc., listed in the *The Official Catholic Directory* published by P.J. Kenedy & Sons, is non-profit and has 501c(3) status. The organization's Board of Trustees guides the development and overall operation of the organization as it strives to implement its mission.

Mission

Called by the healing ministry of Jesus, the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved is committed to serve all people who have experienced the death of a loved one. Our holistic care is dedicated to the spiritual support of individuals, parishes, and communities.

Goals

- To offer spiritual support and the healing comfort of God to all who mourn a loss through death
- To develop and provide resources and training programs to support ministries of consolation
- To increase networking, collaboration, and partnering with ministers of consolation, parishes, dioceses, and national organizations

Vision

We envision a compassionate Catholic ministry which will lead to the transformation of bereavement ministry. We will ensure services and education which will respond to the needs of people throughout the grief process. We look to expand the role of the laity in leadership to ensure this Catholic ministry into the future.

NCMB Annual Membership Application Form

(Please print or type.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Organization: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

- Individual/Family \$45.00
- Congregation/Diocesan/Professional/Organization/Corporate \$100.00
- Guardian Angel \$200.00
- Arch Angel \$1,000.00

Your additional donation of

\$ _____

is very much appreciated. NCMB is a not-for-profit organization. Please send tax deductible check or money order to:

**NCMB,
P.O. Box 16353,
St. Louis, MO 63125**

NCMB Membership

Benefits

- Members are partners in the ministry of consolation offering pastoral and spiritual support to the bereaved, caregivers, agencies, congregations, and dioceses. Members make the NCMB mission possible. Without member support, the call would go unanswered.
- The quarterly newsletter *Journey*, brochures, and other resources assist the bereavement minister and the bereaved.
- Members receive a discount on NCMB resource materials

Annual Membership

Individual/Family

\$45 annual membership benefits:

- Subscription to *Journey*
- Brochure Sample
- 5% discount on NCMB resource materials
- Access to the Member's Only network on NCMB website

Congregation/Diocesan/Professional/Organization/Corporate

\$100 annual membership benefits:

- Subscription to *Journey*
- Prayer service
- 5% discount on NCMB resource material
- Access to the Member's Only network on NCMB website

Guardian Angel

\$200 annual membership benefits:

- Subscription to *Journey*
- Prayer Service
- Certificate of Membership
- Published recognition in *Journey*
- 10% discount on NCMB resource materials
- Access to the Member's Only network on NCMB website

Arch Angel

\$1000 membership benefits:

- Subscription to *Journey*
- Prayer Service
- Certificate of Membership
- Published recognition in *Journey*
- 10% discount on NCMB resource materials
- Access to the Member's Only network on NCMB website
- Letter of appreciation from Episcopal Moderator

Credits

Printing costs for this brochure have been donated by Doris B. Hudak in loving memory of deceased members of the Doris B. Hudak family and by John and Linda Cherek in loving memory of their daughter Kristen.



National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved

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Invitation to Membership

National

Catholic

Ministry to the

Bereaved