

Fr. Paul

Ted Wall

O.L.A. Parish Council

Subject: Pastoral Assistant's Report – February 14, 2022

### **Bereavement Support Group**

During the past 18 months there have been a significant number of parishioners of O.L.A. or family/close friends of parishioners who have passed away. Ted Wall had mentioned to me last year that there might be a need for a bereavement group, and I agreed to look into it after the Refresher/Training for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers last September and the Morning of Prayer, Reflection, and Communal Celebration of The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in November. In the past several months, I saw Bridget Auer at many if not all of the recent funerals. We began to talk about how folks might benefit from a bereavement group, and I learned she was part of a bereavement group which met many years back. She and I had a meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>, and we looked at the binder on the shelf right here in the library which has much of the program that was used. Bridget agreed to reach out to some of those who have lost love ones, especially the more recent losses, to see if there is interest in joining with a bereavement group, and we will meet shortly to discuss the findings. In the meantime, I am reaching out to the living members of the past bereavement group, just to listen to what they feel were the practices that worked best. I have 1 more to reach out to in Florida to get her thoughts. Acting on Fr. Paul's wise counsel, I reached out to the Archdiocese, and they will provide a couple of Zoom sessions to provide training support to us. So, assuming at least some of those who have had a loss would like to participate, we can look forward to starting the group after Easter. And I look forward to working together with Bridget on this.

God Bless you all

Gary