

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

6902 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Tel 301-229-7933 ♦ Fax 301-229-7998

Dear Pastor,

I'd like to tell you about an exciting caregiving ministry that has blessed us here at Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church since 2011: Stephen Ministry.

We currently have 21 congregation members serving as Stephen Ministers—well-trained lay caregivers who provide high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing various difficulties in life.

I've enclosed an item that describes Stephen Ministers as the “after people,” coming alongside a person *after* a crisis occurs—and walking with that person for as long *after* as necessary.

As a pastor, I'm grateful for our congregation's Stephen Ministers. They offer crucial ongoing care and support to hurting people in our congregation and throughout our community.

I'd like to invite you and others from your congregation to a half-day Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Stephen Ministry and how your congregation can become involved. Those who attend will also experience a sample of Stephen Ministry training and learn caregiving skills they can put to use right away.

The workshop will be held here at Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church in Bethesda, Maryland, on Saturday, October 31, 2015, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Check-in and refreshments begin at 8:30 A.M.

To register, use the enclosed form or visit www.stephenministry.org/workshop. If you have questions or would like to register by phone, call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600 (8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Central Time).

Also enclosed are several items to help you publicize the workshop in your congregation, including a flyer that provides more details. Feel free to photocopy these items and give them to members, groups, or committees that might be interested in attending.

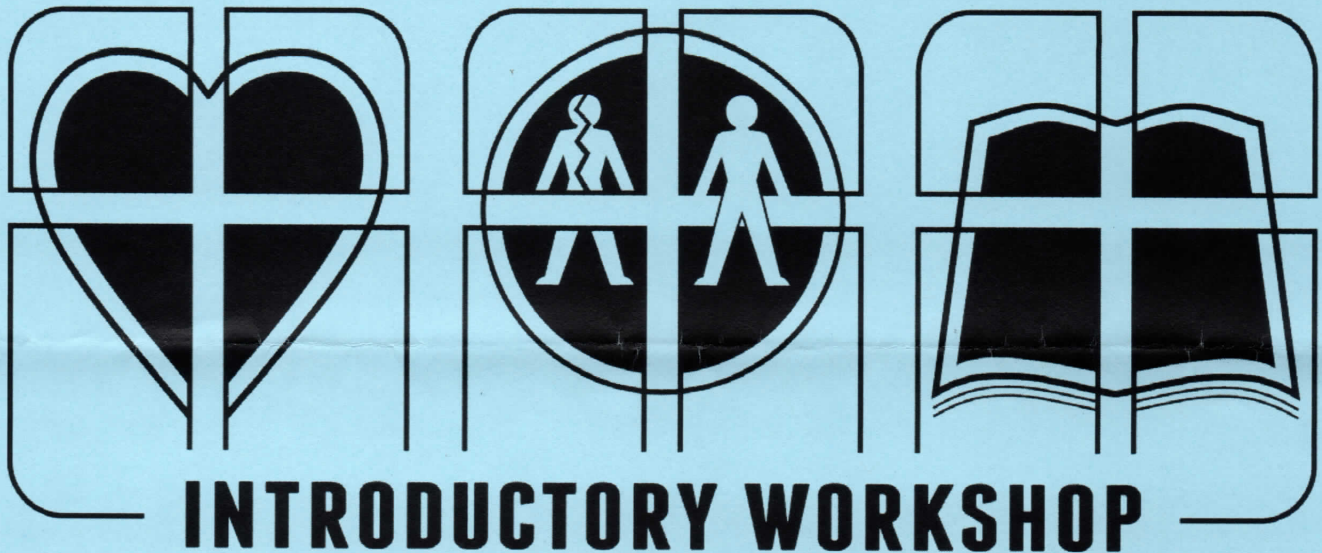
I look forward to seeing people from your congregation at the Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop on Saturday, October 31. God's blessings to you and your congregation.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Mark D. Knestout

STEPHEN MINISTRY



A Half-Day Workshop *Featuring:*

Session 1: Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

Session 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

Session 3: How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

When:

Saturday, October 31, 2015

9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. (check-in and on-site registration begin at 8:30 A.M.)

Where:

Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church
6900 River Rd
Bethesda, MD 20817

Cost:

\$15 per person, or \$50 per congregation (four or more)

To Register:

Visit www.stephenministry.org/workshop or call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600

Registration Form

Workshop Location: Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church - Bethesda, MD

To Register: *(We encourage you to register five or more days before the workshop)*

- Mail or fax this completed form to Stephen Ministries—see address and fax number below;
 - Register online at www.stephenministry.org/workshop; or
 - Call (314) 428-2600 (Monday through Friday, 8 A.M.–5 P.M. Central Time).
- Check this box and fill in your contact information below if you *cannot attend* but would like to receive an information packet about Stephen Ministry.

Number Attending:

_____ Indicate the total number of individuals from your congregation who plan to attend.

_____ Indicate how many of those individuals, if any, are pastors.

Workshop Costs:

- Per Person Rate:** \$15 per person (_____ individuals x \$15 each = \$ _____)
- Congregation Rate:** \$50 for a group of four or more from your congregation

Payment Options: Payment enclosed (checks payable to **Stephen Ministries**)
 We will pay on the day of the workshop

Congregation Information: *(Please print legibly)*

 Congregation/Organization

 Congregation/Organization's Phone #

 Exact Name of Denomination (e.g. Lutheran-ELCA, United Methodist, Southern Baptist, etc.)

 Congregation/Organization Street Address

 City, State, Zip

 Contact Person (Title, First Name, and Last Name)

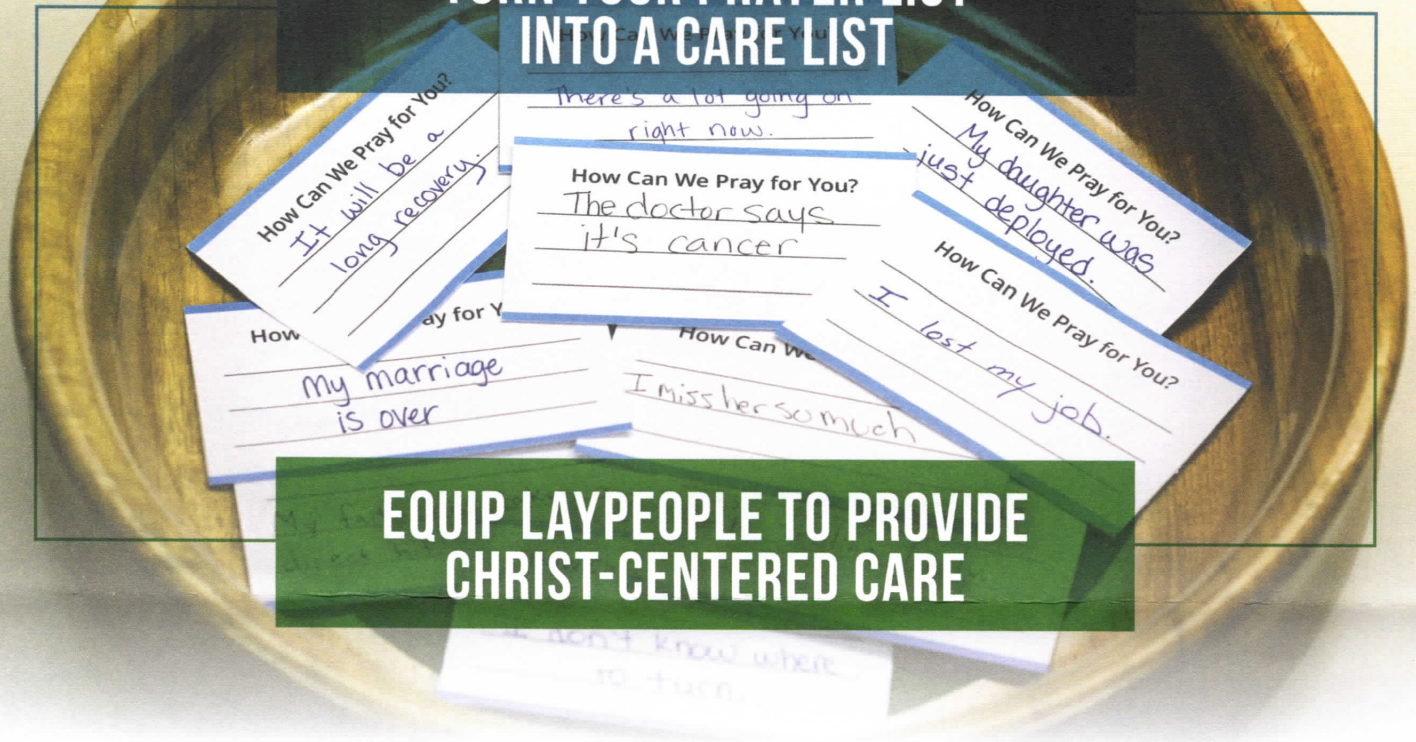
 Contact Person's Daytime Phone #

 Contact Person's Email Address (Used only for emailing your registration confirmation.)

Name(s) of Individual(s) Planning to Attend:

(Write additional names on back or attach another sheet if needed.)

TURN YOUR PRAYER LIST INTO A CARE LIST



EQUIP LAYPEOPLE TO PROVIDE CHRIST-CENTERED CARE

Pastors want to provide care to everyone who needs it—but they can't do it alone. Equipping laypeople to minister to hurting people is a highly effective and biblical way to ensure that those in need of Christ-centered care receive it.

Christ at work in and through gifted, trained lay caregivers—that's the Stephen Ministry vision!

STEPHEN MINISTRY INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

This half-day event will show how to make that vision a reality. You and your team will gain hands-on ministry skills through a sample of Stephen Minister training, deepen your vision for care and outreach, and learn how to bring the life-changing benefits of Stephen Ministry to your congregation.

SESSION 1:
MINISTERING TO THOSE EXPERIENCING GRIEF

SESSION 2:
AN INTRODUCTION TO STEPHEN MINISTRY

SESSION 3:
HOW TO CARE IN A DISTINCTIVELY CHRISTIAN WAY

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Pastors and church staff
- Lay leaders and decision makers
- Caregivers and caregiving teams

WORKSHOP COST

\$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more from your congregation or organization.

Take advantage of the group rate and bring a whole team. They'll learn how to cast a vision and build support for beginning Stephen Ministry.

DATES & LOCATIONS

The accompanying letter tells about a workshop near you. For a nationwide schedule of upcoming Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshops, visit www.stephenministry.org/schedule.

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER

1. At www.stephenministry.org/workshop
2. Call (314) 428-2600
3. Submit completed registration form by mail

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

... *after* the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

... *after* the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”

... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”

... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

... *after* the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org