

## **Bereavement Ministry ~ Hope for Tomorrow**

**"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5-4**

Jesus spoke these words in His Sermon on the Mount. Therefore as members of the Catholic Community of Manistee, in attempting to live out our Church Mission, **"to reach out to all in love,"** a Grief Recovery Ministry has been established within our Catholic Community.

Presently this Ministry to the bereaved consists of two ministerial components.

1) Grief Support Ministers who will reach out to each family who have experienced a death. This will be accomplished by mail, phone and/or visits, depending on the need and desire of the family members. Currently we have thirty trained Grief Support Ministers.

2) Grief Recovery Group Sessions. This is a Series of Six Sessions, which will be offered periodically throughout the year. These sessions are for individuals who have experienced loss through the death of a loved one. The goal of this group is to provide a process for healing within a safe and supportive environment. These are not counseling sessions.

Our program has been modeled after the Grief Support Ministry written by Sandy Buzza and the late Bishop Kenneth Utner of the Diocese of Saginaw, MI