

Martha's Helpers - The Ministry of Comfort

Most, if not all, of us have experienced the death of a loved one, and we have an intimate understanding of the sorrow, disorientation, and inability to make decisions that accompanies our loss. While there are many details that only the family can attend to at such a time, here at St. Mary's we are extremely fortunate to have helping hands who stand ready to provide the warmth, comfort, and nurturing of a post-funeral reception, just steps away from the church in Hofmann Center. These hands belong to the women and men of ***Martha's Helpers***, a ministry founded in 1977 by Rita Fisher and eleven other women of the parish, who in response to one of Jesus' Beatitudes felt called to "comfort those who mourn" (Matthew 5:4).

This ministry of care and comfort has evolved over the years - from bringing food to the homes of those who are dealing with the loss of a family member to providing a generous spread for up to 120 people here at the parish. Everything from organizing the food donations to set-up, serving, and clean-up is done by volunteers. Molly Mahoney and her lead team - Jubie Jaramillo, Anne Marie Miori, and Ann Boyum - draw from a list of people who have committed to supplying a variety of finger foods – mini-sandwiches; deviled eggs; cheese, meat, and cracker plates; fruit kabobs; cookies, etc. Others are present on the day of the reception to arrange the food, help serve, and clean up when everyone has left.

If you have ever attended a Martha's Helpers reception, you know what a wonderful feeling it is to gather with family and friends there, share a meal, and exchange stories about your loved one whose celebration of life you just attended, hardly aware of the quiet care you are receiving from these generous volunteers.

Molly and her team invite you to join them as a volunteer in this ministry of support to those who are mourning. The commitment is not burdensome: once every 12 to 18 months you will be contacted and asked to deliver a homemade or store-bought platter of food to the reception site at Hofmann Center. If you would like to be involved at a deeper level, you may join Martha's Helpers as an organizer, helping with duties such as calling volunteers and helping on the day of the receptions. To join the team, please contact Molly Mahoney at mmahoney40@gmail.com .