



# All Things Ignatian



## Bereavement Ministry Through the Collaborative Ministry Office

The Bereavement Ministry has been initiated to provide comfort for those in the Creighton community who are grieving the death of a family member. It is our intention to reach out to these people compassionately and sensitively to reassure them of the prayers and support of their colleagues at Creighton.

There are two parts to this ministry; reaching out and praying.

### Reaching Out

Those in this ministry make visits on four occasions throughout the year after a family member has died. Those visits occur on the one month, three month, six month and one year anniversaries of the family member's death. The purpose of the visit is to let the grieving person know of our comfort and concern for them during this time. There are items that are taken on these various occasions to serve as reminders of this comfort and support. Those items include a plant, a loaf of bread (baked by those in the Jesuit kitchen), a card, and a candle.

### Praying

Praying is another part of this ministry. Each month the list of those being visited and those making the visits is sent to the Jesuit community. The Jesuit community then prays for those on the list. Those making the visits also pray for those they are visiting. Those prayers become their actions when they make the visit to each person.



### How it works

Those involved in this ministry select which month of the year is best suited for their schedule to be able to do this. Then they make visits (usually about 4 visits) during that month. The coordinator contacts them when it is their month, providing them with the names, specific information regarding the relative that has died, the contact information, and the item to be taken to each person they are visiting.

### The Blessings...

This ministry was started in the summer of 2004. There are about 75 volunteers that make the visits. We have visited over 500 people, which means there have been about 2,000 visits made. Those numbers are impressive, but even more so are the sentiments expressed by those visited. There is a strong sense of comfort and an even stronger sense of the Creighton community here. This is felt not only by those being visited, but is often expressed just as strongly by those making the visits. It has been our goal to provide comfort...what has occurred is the strengthening of this remarkable community.

*Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.*