

## **Mourning Team Ministry**

**January 5, 2010**

The Saint Louis Church Pastoral Council would like to express its deep gratitude for the kind and loving care that you have consistently given to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Since the Mourning Team was organized in 2000, countless persons have been supported and strengthened by your compassion. Each month for a year after the death of a loved one, your team has sent helpful and reflective printed materials to those in your care. These carefully chosen materials have given those who are mourning considerate and supportive information about grief in general, patience with the journey through grief while hoping to heal, and both Spiritual and day-to-day practical guidance to ease their heavy heart. Included with these written materials you have sent beautifully composed hand written notes which were personalized for the person you were reaching out to. The recipient of the note was reminded that you were available to them in any way they wished or to simply be with them in silence and prayer.

Each November you have invited those who have lost a loved one in the past year for a beautiful Bereavement Mass and dinner. This special evening allowed the bereaved to experience nurturing care of body and soul while in the company of others who were also grieving, as well as members of the Mourning Team who had walked with them so lovingly.

Often you did not personally know the bereaved with whom you so devotedly kept in touch. However, you brought God's light into their darkness and offered them God's peace and comfort. God's work was done with your hands and by your words.

“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (Matthew 5: 4)

With deepest gratitude,  
The Saint Louis Pastoral Council