

Why I Am Catholic

Another reason is the Bereavement Committee and the support of this parish to those going through losses, crises, and times of suffering. This past year I have seen many actions of care and compassion—of people helping others bear their burdens and their sorrows.

The word compassion means to "suffer with." It means to be willing to enter another person's situation and sometimes help, but more importantly to be present and to walk with them during the storms of life. We may not be able to change what has happened, but we can make sure people know they are not alone. And that God will bind up their wounds and bring them back to His peace.

We have had deaths and funerals where people have consoled the families and provided spiritual and material aid and great comfort. Our choirs have provided prayerful and uplifting music. Our parishioners have prepared and provided food for receptions and for the home.

We have reached out to people in other difficult circumstances and shown that we are a true family and a caring community. We have been a refuge from the waves of tragedy that can overwhelm any of us without notice.

The song "Bearers of the Light" by Michael Card sums up this calling:

The light we must bear
Is the light we must share
Is the light that illumines the darkness.
The promises kept give us strength to accept
This burden of bearing the light.