

# Sweet blessings for our Stephen Ministry



We, your Stephen Leaders, are overawed by the calling, response, motivation, and strong faith of those who applied to be Stephen Ministers! Our hope remains that we will continue to draw a cross section of our parish population in time for the start of the first training period, early next year. There have also been more inquiries about the ministry and its function. If you want to learn more or are thinking about training to be a minister, do attend our upcoming, weekend, 'Taste of Stephen Ministry'. This weekend (Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>) will spotlight Stephen Ministry. It also happens to be the weekend for nametags and donuts. So come, join us on the second floor of the Education Formation Building. Enjoy coffee and donuts, meet and greet our Stephen Leaders, leaf through our informational brochures, and get your queries about the ministry answered. We are looking forward to a great turnout!



It is now two months since the initiation of efforts to roll out our new Stephen ministry. We are seeing and experiencing the amazing fruitfulness of all prayers offered up for this venture. We successfully set up our website: <http://ourladyofangels.com/stephen-ministry> with links to information and an application form for potential ministers. Our Stephen ministry received support from other parishes and congregations in the areas of planning, networking, and useful training materials. CRHP and Time and Talent weekend brought us many of our excellent candidates for the ministry, several of whom are already through with interviews. We are thankful to the Lord and commend you for your desire to serve the Him obediently; whether in this ministry or another. Truly we have received showers of blessings!

In September, a Faith and Grief meeting was hosted at Our Lady of Angels. We will be a host site for these meetings during the Fall and Winter holidays this year and in rotation thereafter. They will be held at midday on the second Wednesday of November and December this year. If you or a loved one are interested in attending a Faith and Grief meeting, please explore more at: <http://www.faithandgrief.org/>

In 2017, our first training period will run most Mondays from January through mid-June. On December 5<sup>th</sup> this year, we will explore Spiritual Gifts with our Stephen Ministers. All in the parish who are interested in exploring their charisms are welcome to join us. This is a great start to beginning any commitment to serve in ministry and it is best done in community. For more information, please contact us at [stephenministries@ourladyofangels.com](mailto:stephenministries@ourladyofangels.com)

Much work must be done for the next important phase of preparation of our Stephen Ministers. We again ask for your continued prayers and support for Stephen Leaders, as they coordinate planning and preparation for upcoming phases. Also do keep in prayer, those discerning a call to this ministry, as well as our current Stephen Ministers, warming up to their formation as ministers, and function as a team. We also uplift in prayer those bereft of spiritual and emotional support; especially those who struggle during the Fall and Winter holidays. May God continue to richly bless his faithful people!