

Bereavement Ministry at St. Andrew Kim Parish

Fr. Paul Goo



Bereavement ministry



- ♦ One of the most fruitful ministries in the Church in South Korea
- Consists of two committees:
 - ♦ The 'Hospice' Committee
 - ♦ The 'Funeral' Committee

The 'Hospice' Committee

- Visits the dying
- ♦ Arranges the Anointing of the Sick
- ♦ Accompanies the family
 - Encourages relational healing & forgiveness among the family members
 - ♦ Encourages funeral & burial planning → The 'Funeral' Committee
- ♦ Provides post-funeral care → "Forget-me-nots"

The 'Hospice' Committee

- ♦ 20 to 25 members
- ♦ 1 President
- ♦ 1 Priest for Sacraments
- Provides Vancouver-wide coverage
- Monthly meet ups



"Forget-me-nots"



- ♦ Myosotis, or "mouse's ear"
- Meetings for the surviving family members
- ♦ Focused on parents who lost children and on those who lost their spouses
- ♦ Free-talking over tea (monthly)
- Picnic at the Grotto (yearly)

"Forget-me-nots"





The 'Funeral' Committee

- ♦ Visits the deceased at the hospital/hospice
- Consoles the family
- ♦ Connects the family to a funeral home & assists with arrangements
- Prays the psalms for the dead ("Yeon-do")



The 'Funeral' Committee



- ♦ Attends the vigil, funeral & burial
- ♦ Pays respect to the deceased & offers condolences to the family at the services
- ♦ Visits the burial site/crematorium on the 3rd day after funeral ("Sam-woo-je")

The 'Funeral' Committee

- ♦ 20 to 30 members
- ♦ 1 President (contact info in bulletin)
- ♦ 1 Vice-President (reception & flowers)
- 2 Coordinators (funeral home & Gardens of Gethsemane)
- Liturgy helpers (lectors, altar servers, choir, casket bearers, family assistants)



Prayer for the dead ("Yeon-do")



- ♦ The committee members gather to pray the psalms at least once before the funeral.
- Sometimes everyday until the day before the funeral
- ♦ In Korea, Legion of Mary *praesidia* and regional small groups pray throughout the day, everyday.
- ♦ At the home of the deceased, the funeral home, or the parish

Prayer for the dead ("Yeon-do")

<u>Documentary - Korean Catholic Funeral</u> <u>Tradition</u> (~1:56)

"The very first time I experienced Yeondo was when my youngest aunt passed away. It was a very snowy day which was on December 31st. Everyone would be busy celebrating New Year's Eve, but the people performing Yeondo at my Aunt's funeral would come despite the snow, until the very end. I found this deeply touching. This is when I decided to attend the Catholic Church."



Prayer for the dead ("Yeon-do")



"I was not religious at the time when I first heard about Yeondo, about 10 years ago. When my mother passed away, lots of people from the church came to pray Yeondo for my mother during the whole funeral process. This deeply touched me, and I had faith that the prayers would be heard by God. I believe his mercy will take my mother into a better place. I was sad, yet relieved at the same time. I still remember this day clearly inside my heart."

성당소개 신앙생활 성당단체 성당 Program 게시판 자료실



기도문 예비신자 안내 전입교우 안내 혼배성사 / 장례미사

- 혼배성사
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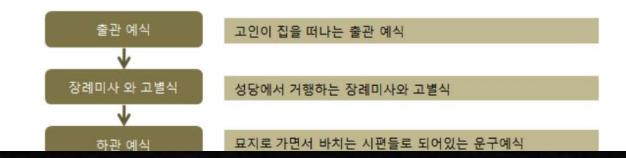
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Q & A