



Reaching Out through Pastoral Care
Mary Armbrust: Pastoral Care & Ministry Coordinator
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Green Bay
marmbrust@gbdio.org

Suggestions for Reaching out at the Hour of Death When Face-to-Face Contact is not Possible

- Offer Reassurance of God's Love and the Support of the Parish: [Making Pastoral Care Phone Calls](#)
- First do no Harm: [Tips for things to say and not say for bereavement ministry](#).
- Offer Reassurance of God's Love and Mercy even when we don't get to say Goodbye: Remind people that their loved one knows that they were loved and that even after death we are still able to give and receive love, forgiveness and spiritual support through our prayers and the prayers of the Community of Saints. "The Hour of Our Death" by Jim Van Vurst, OFM: <https://blog.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit/the-hour-of-our-death>.
- Answering questions about Church Teaching on Cremation: [Catholic Cemeteries Cremation](#)
- Prayer Vigil - No One Dies Spiritually Unaccompanied: Parish members may sign up for one-hour long time slots in hopes that every hour of is covered: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b49acaf2ca7fc1-prayer>. [Prayer Vigil Ideas for Spiritually Accompanying Persons Who Are Dying](#)
- Official Prayers of the Catholic Church at the Hour of Death and for Mourners: Official prayers of the Church for the dying, immediately after death, and for the burial. We may adapt these prayers that are meant to be prayed in person through these ways: a phone call with a single person or on speakerphone, lead families in prayers in online meeting or Facebook Messenger, use during a Prayer Vigil for those dying in isolation. Some may be appropriate at a later date, such as the first time visiting the graveside. [USCCB Prayers for Death and Dying](#).
- [Additional Catholic Prayers](#) for those who are dying and who have just died
- Grief Directory with Resources in the Community: [Diocesan Grief Directory](#)
- Catholic Health Care and End-of-Life Planning Resources and Documents: <https://www.wisconsinatholic.org/parish-resources/>