

Membership Booklet of the Auxiliary of the Little Sisters of the Poor includes 10 "Beatitudes for the Friends of the Aged," written by Esther Mary Walker. They are as follows:

### *Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged*

Blessed are they who understand  
my faltering steps and shaking hand.

Blessed are they who know that my ears today  
must strain to catch the words they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know  
that my eyes are dim and my reactions slow.

Blessed are they who look away  
when my coffee gets spilled during the day.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile  
who stop to chat with me for a while.

Blessed are they who never say  
"You've told that story twice today."

Blessed are they who know the ways  
to bring back lovely yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make it known  
that I am loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who know the loss  
of strength I need to bear the cross.

Blessed are they who ease the days  
of my journey home in loving ways.

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# LAY PASTORAL VISITORS' MINISTRY

*"Life is short and we do not have much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who make the  
journey with us, so be swift to love and make  
haste to be kind....."*

These words, often spoken at the end of the service at St. Paul's, best describes what is at the heart of the Lay Pastoral Visitors' ministry.



## *A Church to Home Ministry.*

Over twenty years ago, a small group of parishioners gathered to consider how to reach out to members of St. Paul's who were no longer able to participate actively in the life of our church family.

Whether some were away for a short time due to illness or a more permanent absence, the focus has always been to make sure our beloved members are not forgotten. And we know that studies have shown that isolation and loneliness can often impact a person's overall health and well-being. Whether by phone or in person Lay Pastoral Visitors will check with someone just returning from the hospital to see if a week's worth of meals might make life easier for them.

# LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY

*We cannot all do great things.*

*But we can do small things with great love." Mother Teresa*



Visitors will take turns delivering altar flowers and church bulletins to someone no longer able to attend services. Friendly calls and greeting cards are sent on a regular basis. These small, but important gestures, are just a few examples of the ways Lay Pastoral Visitors *"gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us."*



### JOIN US / CONTACT US

Visitors meet once a month to support each other, as well as to seek ways to better serve our homebound households. Confidentiality is of utmost importance. Over the past few years, several of our visitors have passed through the veil into eternity or are no longer able to participate in this most important ministry. If you would like to become a Lay Pastoral Visitor, prepare crisis meals or deliver flowers, please call, or send an e-mail to:

#### Crisis Meals

Terry Howell – 729-9306 – [jth1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jth1@myfairpoint.net)

#### Flower Deliveries

Jean Mulligan – 798-6765 - [mulls48@gmail.com](mailto:mulls48@gmail.com)

#### Joining Visitors

Susan McCracken – 846-0150– [Susan.mccracken40@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.mccracken40@gmail.com)