

How to Become a BeFriender

If you would like to know more about becoming a BeFriender, please call Bernadette Tatge at Divine Mercy Catholic Church (334-2266) or Tracy Velishek at St. Patrick Catholic Church (334-6002.) Training is an essential part of becoming an effective BeFriender minister who represents our parish community. Training teaches skills to become an active listener.

Out of Solitude

The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness: that is the friend who cares."

by Henri Nouwen

BeFrienders is a ministry of mission and outreach of our parish.

It is provided at no charge. BeFrienders do not accept personal gifts as per International BeFriender Minister guidelines.

Donations to BeFriender Ministry are accepted and appreciated. Checks can be made to Divine Mercy BeFriender Ministry.

BeFriender Ministry is not so much a "doing" but rather a "being," a ministry of presence, of quiet active listening.



A Listening Presence

Divine Mercy Catholic Church
139 Mercy Drive
Faribault MN 55021

507-334-2266

St Patrick Catholic Church
7525 Dodd Road
Faribault, MN 55021

507-334-6002

St Michael Catholic Church
108 Bullis St
Kenyon, MN 55946

507-789-6120 or 507-334-2266

Who are BeFrienders

Lay Christian women and men who are trained for a caring and supportive ministry. BeFrienders are active listeners committed to personal and spiritual growth. They are strong believers in keeping confidentiality.

BeFrienders are answering their call to ministry by offering their time and talent to others. They are open to listening with a caring heart while those they visit work through life's transitions.

What BeFrienders do

They recognize that no one is exempt from the struggles and problems of everyday living.

They believe that working through a crisis, time of pain, loneliness or confusion can be helped by the presence of an active listener.

They listen with an open mind without judging or offering advice.

They attend monthly meetings for continued education and growth in BeFriender ministry.

They represent our parish under the supervision of BeFriender Coordinators.

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Please note:

BeFrienders do not run errands, do housekeeping or personal care.

Who may benefit from a BeFriender

People having difficulties accepting life's transitions.

Those who are homebound and need a friend to listen on a regular basis.

People who are living in a nursing home/assisted living facility who would like a connection with the parish.

Those caring for a spouse or family member who has a condition/illness requiring constant care.

People experiencing grief or loss: death, divorce, job loss.

Those who have experienced a crisis in their life.