

Barbara's Story – Scenario 1

Barbara has been a member of the parish for many years, attended daily Mass and enjoyed meeting for the weekly bible study group. You remember her children when they were small and noted recently that they do not visit as often as they use to. Barbara is recently retired. She was a waitress for many years at the local diner and was liked by many people. Since retiring, she has disclosed to you that she now must budget more than she used to, relying solely on her fixed income of social security, alimony, and whatever personal savings she had. You notice that Barbara doesn't come to daily Mass as often as she used to, and she has not been attending the bible study group. Wanting to make sure she is OK; you stop by for a visit. Barbara seems to have lost weight and tells you how she doesn't sleep as well because of back pain. She appears sullen, lonely, and restless.

Barbara's Story- Scenario 2

Barbara hasn't been to daily Mass for over two weeks, and you note that she has even missed Sunday Mass. You have one of her adult children's phone number, so you reach out. Her son says that he talked to her yesterday but only for a few minutes. You call Barbara and surprisingly, she answers. She tells you that she struggles to leave the house and feels lonely. You tell her that you'd like to check on her every day for a while, that there are people who care, and you are one of them. She declines, and says she prefers to be alone, and finds herself irritable when she is around a lot of people.

Barbara's Story- Scenario 3

The next day, worried, you stop by, but no one answers the door. You hear noises and know that she is home. You go around back and can get through her patio door, and you hear her dogs barking incessantly. You call her but no answer. You walked upstairs to see Barbara in bed, crying. Near her is a bottle of prescription painkillers and she appears to be 'out of it' and keeps telling you she just 'couldn't do it anymore.'