Bereavement Conference
For the Bereaved and those Ministering to them

Theme
GRIEF IS...
A JOURNEY

Saturday, March 30, 2019
ST. PATRICK PARISH, HUNTINGTON
9:00am to 3:00pm
$40.00 includes continental breakfast and lunch

Keynote Speaker
Kenneth J. Doka, PhD

Professor of Gerontology at the Graduate School of the College Of New Rochelle; Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America.

Kenneth J. Doka, PhD is a prolific author. Dr. Doka's books include Grief Is a Journey: Finding your Pathway through Loss, Helping Adolescents Cope with Loss, Journeys with Grief: A Collection of Articles about Love, Life, and many others. Dr. Doka is editor of both Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying and Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement. He has an ongoing blog for Psychology Today entitled Good Mourning.

He is a recipient of the Caring Hands Award as well as the Dr. Robert Fulton CDEB Founder's Award. In 2006, Dr. Doka was grandfathered in as a Mental Health Counselor under NY State's first licensure of counselors.

Dr. Doka has keynoted conferences throughout North America as well as Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. He participates in the annual Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference and has appeared on CNN and Nightline. In addition he has served as a consultant to medical, nursing, funeral service and hospice organizations as well as businesses and educational and social service agencies. Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister. For more information visit www.drkendoka.com

To keep up to date on the Conference and all Bereavement services, support groups and programs available, please visit our website: www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement/
Conference Schedule

9:00 a.m.  Registration
          Coffee and Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m.  Welcome—Introduction
          Opening Prayer

10:00 a.m. Keynote Presentation
          Kenneth Doka, PhD

11:15 a.m. Workshop I

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m.  Workshop II

2:30 p.m.  Closing Prayer
Workshops

Please make one choice from those offered at Session I (11:15 a.m.) and one choice from those offered at Session II (1:15 p.m.)

You will be placed in each session on a first-come-first-served basis. Please see descriptions below and the chart on the following page as not all workshops are offered at both sessions.

Suggested audience abbreviations: P = Professionals, VF = Volunteer Facilitators, B = Bereaved

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**Session I**

11:15 a.m.

1. **Blessed Are You - Healing in times of Grief and Loss**  
   Chris Catalano, BA Catholic Theology, MA Music Composition
   Everyone has been touched by the pain of death and loss. Whether it was through cancer, an accident, old age, or some other circumstance, all of us have experienced the sting of grief. Please join singer, songwriter Chris Catalano for a special session of prayer, reflection, and original music.  
   Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

2. **Journey Through Grief**  
   Msgr. Camp, pastor of St. Patrick, Huntington
   Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

3. **“God, come to my assistance”**  
   Christopher Ferraro, director of music at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Lindenhurst. He holds master’s degrees in theology and pastoral studies and an advanced certificate in pastoral liturgy from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, where he is the director of the Liturgical Music Institute. He is a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and is a consultant and presenter for the Office of Worship and Office of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Rockville Centre.  
   Praying through grief with the prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours.  
   Suggested Audience: P, B

4. **Children’s Bereavement: A Developmental Journey**  
   Sorry this workshop is closed.  
   Michelle Graff, LCSW is currently the Clinical Director of the COPE Foundation and specializes in trauma, grief and bereavement in adult and child populations. She is a certified Resolve Through Sharing Trainer ©, NAMI Connect Suicide and Sudden Loss Postvention, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Trained, EMDR trained, and is Certified in Seminar in Field Instruction for Social Work students. She has worked as a Bereavement Specialist for Good Shepherd Hospice, Palliative Care Social Worker for Good Samaritan Hospital and Clinical Social Worker for the FDNY’s Counseling Services Unit. Michelle holds a Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education and a Master’s in Social Work from Adelphi University.
   This workshop will explore the theoretical underpinnings of children's grief as well as practical information to help promote healthy coping.  
   Suggested Audience: P, VF

5. **Opening Up & Letting Go: Innovative Exercises for Support Group Facilitators**  
   Christopher L. Hayes, Ph.D., Retired Professor of Gerontology Long Island University; Former Director of The Center for Pre-Retirement and Aging, Catholic University of America, Facilitator in the Lazarus program at St. Rosalie’s Parish. Hampton Bays
   This workshop highlights unique exercises that can be introduced within bereavement groups that helps participants ascertain feelings, emotions, areas to loss. Specific attention is given to understanding how to encourage introspection and self-growth throughout the grief journey. Each suggested exercise has been utilized within the Lazarus Bereavement Program at Saint Rosalie’s Church in Hampton Bays, NY.  
   Suggested Audience: B
6. **Grief...Finding Your Own Path to Healing.**

Dr. Jane Malone, PhD, LCSWR, This presenter was a Bereavement Coordinator with over 25 years’ experience working with end of life issues with adults and children. Currently has private practice specializing in grief, trauma and loss in Bayport, NY

Your grief journey is unique and different. Key factors such as your circumstances and your relationship will dictate the pace that you keep. Your “grief landscape” softens over time, allowing memories, strengths and wisdom to define your path to healing. It becomes yours to keep.

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

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7. **A Child’s Journey of Grief**

Maribeth McKeever, LCSW-R, ACH PC-SN, a New York State Licensed Social Worker, Currently holds the position as director of Bereavement for Good Shepherd Hospice as well as coordinator of Gabriel’s Courage Perinatal Support Program

This workshop is designed to provide practical information about age appropriate grief reactions, myths of child grief, grief within the context of the family as well as variety of therapeutic activities.

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

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8. **Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing**

Kerry/Christie O’Keefe, Facilitator for G.R.A.S.P. Malver, NY (“Grief After a Substance Passing”)

Safe, non-judgmental forum for people grieving loss of a loved one to Substance Abuse/Overdose. Discussion of the Stigma, Struggles, Strategies, and Support

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

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9. **Shattered Dreams**

Margaret Peterson, RN, MS, Bereavement Support Group Leader > 30 yrs. Diocesan Facilitator and Educator, Grant Writer, Past Coordinator of Rainbows program. This presenter uses her experience to respond to adults and children who are grieving the death of a loved one or suffering loss due to illness.

Coping with the Death of an Adult Child due to Suicide or Overdose

Suggested Audience: B

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10. **It’s Okay, to not be Okay!**

Kathy Russell-Sica, M.S. Ed. – Special Education – Early Child, Teacher at Association for Children With Down Syndrome, DRE, Coordinator of Office of Special Needs to DRVC, Ongoing Study of M.S. in Theology

Grieving the loss of the child you did not have.

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

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11. **The Orphaned Adult**

Dr. Luciano Sabatini, PhD in Counseling Psychology, 30 years experience in bereavement counseling, Bereavement Coordinator at St. Bernard’s parish in Levittown, Adjunct Professor at Hofstra University.

Losing our parents brings about many losses such as losing them, their unconditional love, family traditions, and severing ties with our past. This workshop is for those who wish to find ways to memorialize their parents, keep their stories alive, and celebrate their accomplishments.

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

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12. **Code Lavender**

Janet Stevens, RNC-OB, MSN, CNE, CNL, CPLC, CBC, C-EMF, CCRN, Perinatal Bereavement Coordinator CHSLI, Nurse/resident Educator GSHMC L&D, Professor at Suffolk County Community College.

Healing Services Team that provides relationship-centered care. It is like a code blue, but for the human spirit: a rapid response to a stressful experience that your colleague is having.

Suggested Audience: P, VF
13. How to Open My Heart to God in the Midst of Pain and Grief

Father Anthony Stanganelli, Priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre for 39 years, present pastor of Saint Bridgid’s Church in Westbury since 2013.

In the course of the loss of a loved one, our image of God is challenged – where was He when I needed him? Why did He take my loved one? We can feel abandoned by God and confused by His silence. How does God invite us to have a relationship with Him and with the ones we love who are now with him?

Suggested Audience: B

14. Understanding the Issues of Complicated Grief

Dr. Patricia Woods, PhD from Columbia University, Teacher’s College, MS in Education from Columbia University, Teacher’s College, MS Marriage/Family Counseling and BA from Queens College

Objective of this session is to have audience understand when grief is more likely to be difficult; to be aware of the nature/circumstances of the bereaved, the nature of death, the nature of the relationship with deceased.

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

15. Blessed Are You – Healing in times of Grief and Loss

Chris Catalano, BA Catholic Theology, MA Music Composition

Everyone has been touched by the pain of death and loss. Whether it was through Cancer, an accident, old age, or some other circumstance, all of us have experienced the sting of grief. Please join singer, songwriter Chris Catalano for a special session of prayer, reflection, and original music.

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B

16. The Catholic Perspective on Cremation

Christopher Ferraro, director of music at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Lindenhurst. He holds master’s degrees in theology and pastoral studies and an advanced certificate in pastoral liturgy from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, where he is the director of the Liturgical Music Institute. He is a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and is a consultant and presenter for the Office of Worship and Office of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

This workshop will look at the myths and facts about the Church’s teaching on cremation.

Suggested Audience: P, VF

17. Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing

Debbie Garceau, has been a Chapter Leader and group facilitator for the monthly GRASP (Grief after substance passing) meetings in Massapequa since 2013. GRASP is a nationwide organization and community of healing and support for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one from substance. She is a Briarcliffe Graduate, married mother of three, and has worked in administration for over 30 years.

Workshop topics will include disenfranchised grief and societal stigma. Discussion will also cover resources for understanding and knowledge of Addiction Disease as well as strategies for coping with the shock and devastation of accidental overdose.

Suggested Audience: B
18. The Courage to Change: How to Modify Your Step on the Road from Loss & Grief

Christopher L. Hayes, Ph.D., Retired Professor of Gerontology Long Island University; Former Director of The Center for Pre-Retirement and Aging, Catholic University of America, Facilitator in the Lazarus program at St. Rosalie’s Parish. Hampton Bays

Grief creates a myriad of challenges that requires developing new roles, responsibilities, and tasks. This workshop will provide a framework for developing the inner resources to embrace change and the tools others have used to develop a new sense of identity. Participants will positively reflect on different periods of one's life that required hopefulness, flexibility, and self-growth.

Suggested Audience: B

19. The Un-Wanted Gift of Grief

Margaret Peterson, RN, MS, Bereavement Support Group Leader > 30 yrs. Diocesan Facilitator and Educator, Grant Writer, Past Coordinator of Rainbows program. This presenter uses her experience to respond to adults and children who are grieving the death of a loved one or suffering loss due to illness.

Nothing is as big a challenge or tests our inner strength as having to re-build our lives after the death of a loved one.

Suggested Audience: B, VF

20. Facilitating a Support Group for Bereaved Parents

Dr. Luciano Sabatini, PhD in Counseling Psychology, 30 years experience in bereavement counseling, Bereavement Coordinator at St. Bernard’s parish in Levittown, Adjunct Professor at Hofstra University.

The bereavement ministry at St. Bernard’s Parish includes an ongoing group for bereaved parents. The workshop reviews how the group was started, unique challenges faced by bereaved parents, and the success as well as setbacks the leaders face in facilitating the group.

Suggested Audience: VF, B

21. Code Lavender

Janet Stevens, RNC-OB, MSN, CNE, CNL, CPLC, CBC, C-EFM, CCRN, Perinatal Bereavement Coordinator CHSLI, Nurse/resident Educator GSHMC L&D, Professor at Suffolk County Community College.

Healing Services Team that provides relationship-centered care. It is like a code blue, but for the human spirit: a rapid response to a stressful experience that your colleague is having.

Suggested Audience: P, VF

22. How to Open My Heart to God in the Midst of Pain and Grief

Father Anthony Stanganelli, Priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre for 39 years, present pastor of Saint Bridgid’s Church in Westbury since 2013.

In the course of the loss of a loved one, our image of God is challenged – where was He when I needed him? Why did He take my loved one? We can feel abandoned by God and confused by His silence. How does God invite us to have a relationship with Him and with the ones we love who are now with him?

Suggested Audience: B

23. Children and Grief: A Journey of Healing

Susan Thomas, LCW-R, ACSW, FT, Program Director for the Center for H.O.P.E. (Healing, Opportunity, Perseverance, Enlightenment) at The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children’s Medical Center. She is also a fellow in Thanatology and Certified Trauma and Loss Specialist and has worked in the field of grief, loss and trauma for the past twenty-nine years. Ms. Thomas is the recipient of the 2010 Presidents Award for Patient Excellence for the entire Northwell Health System. Ms. Thomas coordinates all services provided by the Center for HOPE and is responsible for all the staff and volunteers who work at the Center. Ms. Thomas also has presented at many national conferences and seminars and maintains a private practice in New Hyde Park, NY.

This workshop will explore the unique ways in which children grieve, focusing on the tasks of grief, developmental factors, and strategies for coping. In addition, specific interventions to promote healing will be discussed.

Suggested Audience: P, VF, B
Workshops

Please make one choice from those offered at Session I (11:15 a.m.) and one choice from those offered at Session II (1:15 p.m.)

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Bereavement Conference Registration Form

1. To register please submit the form below or register online at www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement
2. Please forward the completed registration form along with a check payable to The Office of Faith Formation.
3. Mail to: Melissa Usis, Diocese of Rockville Centre, P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023.
4. Name ___________________________________________ Parish __________________________
5. Address ___________________________ Town ___________________________ Zip Code _______
   Phone ___________________________ Email Address ___________________________
6. Check One: ☐Professional ☐ Volunteer Facilitator ☐ Bereaved ☐ Other _________________
7. Please make ONE choice from session one and ONE choice from session two.
8. Workshop Session I Choice Number: ___________________________
9. Workshop Session II Choice Number: ___________________________
10. Conference Registration fee $40.00 per person (includes breakfast and lunch) Amount Enclosed _______