



TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY CHAPLAINCY

6312 19th St. W, Suite C, TACOMA, WA 98466-6226

253-564-7848

My Mother Died!

In nearly 40 years of serving as a pastor and as a police chaplain, I have attended many, many deaths, and I have tried my best to comfort the surviving family and friends, and to help guide them through the process of grieving, beginning the funeral preparations, notifying other family and friends, and building a strong support network. I have often suggested the most appropriate grief support group and urged to them to take advantage of this help when they were ready.

This time it was different. It was *my* mother who died. It was *me*, and *my family* that was impacted. It was *our* grief that was affecting our ability to accomplish even simple tasks. This time others were helping *us*.

This experience has certainly given me a renewed appreciation for our work as chaplains! I now appreciate in a much deeper and more personal way how important it is to have others stand by your side as you go through a time of loss. I have a renewed sense of how much it means to receive such little things as a call, a card, or an e-mail, and I have a much greater appreciation of the importance of simply being there for someone in their time of grief.

This experience has given me a clearer sense of the importance of what we do as chaplains, and a greater appreciation for the calling we have from the Lord to minister to others in His name. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Cor 1:3-5)

Thank you for helping me be there.

Chaplain Art



Check out our website at T-PCC.org