



Dear Friend in Christ,

There is nothing quite like the searing pain of watching a loved one wrestle with addiction. The chaos and anguish overflows into the lives of other family members and friends. Feeling abandoned is understandable.

The booklet that accompanies this letter is designed to give you something to hold onto. Its nondescript cover provides privacy and discretion. Some of its offerings may speak to you one day and not the next. It also may serve as a starting point for you, connecting you with Scripture passages you want to explore or websites where you may find inspiration.

If your loved one has passed away, remember that God loved him or her as much as you did. Our God is a loving God, who knows and understands every detail of our lives.

If your loved one is still with us, even if you can't see it or feel it, be assured God is working in your loved one's life—right now. God knows every detail about them, and cherishes them as much as you do.

Scripture is filled with saints and prophets who expressed their anger and frustration with God. There is nothing you can say that God hasn't heard before. Be honest. Speak your mind. And then do your best to be still. Prayer is a two-way dialogue. Create a space into which God's grace and peace can flow. If turning to God in prayer is overwhelming, start with this: "Lord, help me to grow in faith and trust."

The Catholic Church, the people of the Diocese of Erie, and I care about you very much. Please be assured I am praying for the needs of all those affected by addiction in the Diocese of Erie.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL  
Bishop of Erie